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VOLUME 29, NO. 6 FREE DEC. 11, 1998

All I want for Christmas . . .

Brycen Thoms, 23 months, and his brother Braeden, 3, tell Santa Claus at the Seaway Mall earlier this week what they want for Christmas.

Photo by Mélanie Blais

Master Plan on schedule

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

This year marks the year of "unprecedented life and growth" at Niagara College.

Looking back at the events in 1998, college President Dan Patterson says, "All eyes of the college system were on Niagara College."

The building of the new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake made Niagara a regional college with campuses at each corner of the Niagara Region.

This year was a "milestone" in the Master Plan process with the establishment of the new campus and unique, public partnerships created with the green light given for a new police training facility coming next fall.

The provincial Minister of Education and Training Dave Johnson and Mike Harris, Ontario premier, have cited the college as "enterprising" with ties in the economics of community life. The success in community partnerships has a growing reliance on support of education and training.

Patterson says the college is pleased the Wellandvale campus in St. Catharines is being sold. "An announcement will soon the made on the new owners," he says.

The Welland campus went through many changes this year with renovations done to the outside property and the building of the new Skill Centre for Motive Power Training.

With all of the changes going on at the campuses, Patterson acknowledged the staff and faculty had to be "very patient."

"The staff at the college are an exceptional group of people who were able to mobilize themselves while dealing with tremendous complex changes that were required."

More than 300 staff had to change offices because of the changes, (so), together with the

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Personalized bricks campaign

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — The Niagara College Brick Campaign is swinging into the Christmas season.

About 1,600 brochures and letters are being sent to friends and associates of the college in time for the Christmas gift-giving season, said Liz Palmieri, development associate for the Niagara College Foundation, the college's money-raising arm.

Friends and associates include retirees, members of the business community, former trustees on the board of governors, and individual supporters throughout the southwestern Ontario region.

Two bricks were sold at the November convocation held at the Glendale campus at Niagara-on-the-Lake, and 200 bricks have been given to people who have already given monetary contributions to the college of $100 or more, said Palmieri.

The bricks will be personally engraved and will be installed in the interlocking brick walkways that will be incorporated at the Glendale and Welland campuses. Donors can choose the campus location for their brick.

The brick campaign is part of the college's capital campaign. Its goal is to raise $6 million towards renovations at the Welland campus and the new Glendale campus.

For more information on the campaign, call the Niagara College Foundation at 905-988-5211.

"Your gift means so much to the college and the prosperity of the Niagara Region," says Tom Gauld, chair of the Niagara College board of governors.

More than one name can be put on a brick. Also, individuals programs at the college can purchase a brick.

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

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Eye On Niagara

New partners, personnel mark past year

Continued from Page 1

computer changes, it made for a "turbulent and frustrating period," says Patterson.

A new addition to the college, Martha Casson, vice-president of Enterprise and Service Development Division and also the principal of the Glendale campus. She "is a wonderful addition to the team," says Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to the president, himself a new addition to the college team.

"Everyone was extremely understanding and went the extra mile to achieve goals in a short period of time," says Patterson. "I want to thank everyone for their professionalism and commitment to Niagara College."

Niagara made a number of new partnership agreements, locally with Brock University in St. Catharines, the University of Waterloo, NETcorp and International Trade Service, and internationally with the University of Santo Tomas in Santiago, Chile.

The college continues to strengthen ties with public and Catholic school boards in the Niagara area.

Two of the five projects established were obtained by working with the boards of Niagara for "school to work" projects. These help prepare students for the future workplace.

"At the end of the day, the most important work for us is to obtain student employment opportunities," says Patterson.

A manager of employment services, Amy Elder, was appointed to strengthen the outreach to students with employers. She is dedicated to finding more resources to "linking students" to the workplace. There is an increased opportunity for campus work for students as well as increased co-op and internship opportunities in Canada, and internationally, through programs at the college.

The use of technology, and its application for learning, has been an important preoccupation for Niagara College and create an excellent "in-house" experience for students to learn various software programs.

Recently, at a forum with Industry Canada, which Patterson attended in Toronto, Niagara College, and College Boreal of Sudbury, were cited for their commitment to introducing technology through programs and services.

On a personal note, Patterson says he spends a great deal of his time "out in the community" and is "always impressed by how persuasive and far-reaching our community college is in the life of our communities."

"I am always meeting former graduates, someone who has taken a course at the college, a parent of a student or someone who is pleased with a student who is a co-op or volunteers at their establishment," says Patterson.

"To say that the college is interwoven in the life of the community is surely an understatement of the tremendous impact the staff and students make to the life of this Region. I want to wish everyone a great holiday season and the best in 1999."

He helps students in job searches

By J.W. BROWN
Staff Writer

"Hire a student" is the slogan on his business card.

He provides students with information about job searching and career planning.

On Nov. 4 Joe Brideau, student employment officer, Human Resource Centre of Canada for Students (HRCC-S), sat behind a table near the Donut Diner at Niagara College's Welland campus.

He said the year-round services are new in the Niagara region. They result from a partnership between Human Resources Development Canada in Hull, Que., and Youth and Community Employment Services in Welland.

Brideau, a 1998 graduate of the college's Social Service Worker program, said he answered questions from more than 75 students. On the same day, HRCC-S was at the college's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls.

. . . trying to be more effective matching students with employers.

"I think that what we're doing this year is a great service for the students," he said. "I really enjoy helping students find part-time work."

For more information, Brideau can be reached at the HRCC-S office, 225 East Main St., Welland, 732-5025.

Janet Forfar, consultant, graduate services, at the college's Welland campus, said all employment services' divisions are trying to be more effective matching students with employers.

She said six months after graduation, students are surveyed over the telephone about their job search progress. The information is used to improve services.

Forfar can be reached at ext. 7787. The grad-job hotline is ext. 6565.

Co-op consultants are Jean Brodie, ext. 7743, Monique Morin, ext. 7790 and Michelle Pugh, ext. 7797, at the Welland campus; Christine Drobnich, ext. 4455, Karen Pacheco, ext. 4162 and Wayne Sadlak, ext. 4164, at the Glendale campus; and Heather Smith, ext. 3614, at the Maid of the Mist campus.

Season's Greetings

This time of year is traditionally one of special reflection. As we look back on 1998, it was a year of exciting challenges and great achievements.

I hope that as you prepare to embark on the unwritten pages of a new year, a new term, or a whole new phase of your career, you will reflect, as I do, on your time here at Niagara College as being truly special in so many ways.

I send my very best wishes to all our students, faculty and staff for a wonderful holiday season, and I look forward to a great start to 1999!

Dan Patterson
President

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Gift of tuition

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Give the gift of knowledge with Niagara College tuition gift certificates.

Christmas is not that far away and the stressful decisions on what presents to buy for people are common problems at this time of year.

The easiest and most practical gift anyone can buy for someone is a gift certificates.

These certificates are available at a wide variety of stores but they are also available here at the college.

Niagara offers gift certificates in $25 and $50 donations for courses in the Continuing Education department and they are a great gift for anyone who wishes to take a course here at the college. These gift certificates can only be used in the Continuing Education programs.

Gift certificates are available year round but are most popular at this time of year.

The certificates can be picked up at the Continuing Education department in Hennepin Hall or phone 735-2211 ext. 7510.

Doctor on board

By SANJA NOVAKOVIC
Staff Writer

VALERIE JAEGER

Dr. Valerie Jaeger has been working as a medical doctor at Niagara College since September. She previously worked here from 1986 to 1988.

Jaeger, 44, of Welland, graduated from McGill University in Montreal in 1982.

Jaeger is a doctor in the Health Centre at Brock University in St. Catharines, and a medical director for the Regional Public Birth Control Centre, which has branches in Niagara Falls, Welland and St. Catharines.

Jaeger is available to assist students at her Niagara College office on Fridays from 8:30 a.m. to 11 a.m., but said she's "lucky" if she leaves before 12:30 p.m.

She said the office hours aren't enough to manage all students' requirements. Holding a clinic twice a week would be better because a week is a long time for students to wait if something needs to be followed up.

Jaeger said the most common medical concern students ask help for are birth control, eating disorders and the flu, adding there are also college students who have chronic concerns such as diabetes.

Students are more comfortable seeing and asking for help from a college doctor because, she said, "students are on their own ground at the college. The college environment is a student environment."

She said students have been "very" positive about coming to the Health Centre.

She said she "loves" working with students because they're "very interested in learning. Because I have a certain amount of education, I want to impart my knowledge to students, but they have to make up their own decisions."

"All through life we make decisions, some of which are good, some of which are bad," she said.

Jaeger said there's always an interplay between the doctor and patient. She can provide guidance and suggestions, but students know themselves better because "they've been living in their own shoes all their lives.

"I see my job as being to help people as much as I can."

Jaeger said she had students asking for counselling help on previous and ongoing abuses.

As much as possible, her aim is, she said, to prevent people from having to make decisions about an unwanted pregnancy, by providing adequate contraception.

"I prefer that no women ever have to be put into a position of being pregnant and not wanting to be."

Jaeger, mother of two children, said the good side of college health is short hours, so she has enough free time. She said she "loves" walking, ballet and reading. She's currently investigating different aspects of spirituality.

Jaeger was born in England and travels a lot because it's "wonderful" meeting people from different countries.

"My message to students is to gather as much information as possible, to seek informed help and to use your own brain to make your own decisions."

People Helping People

Volunteers say they enjoy helping people

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

Beryl Culp is 79.

She lives in the small bungalow her late-husband, Gord, built for her when they first moved to Vineland about 55 years ago.

Family photographs taken of her two great-grandchildren, of her six grandchildren, and three sons at earlier stages of their lives adorn the walls and countertop in her kitchen dining area.

She says the "years count up after a while and along with them things wear out or don't work so well."

She says arthritis is "one of her biggest problems" as she moves stiffly around the kitchen while boiling hot water for tea and arranging home-made oatmeal cookies on a plate.

She says she has had two hip replacements, has had a steel rod placed in her back and wears two hearing aids. She says she "just doesn't want to drop out of society," so she wants to take care of herself for as long as she can.

Culp is a volunteer at Distress Centre Niagara. "I enjoy it so much. That would be one thing I would not like to give up because of my hearing."

Culp started at the centre in 1984. She says she saw an advertisement for the centre in the *St. Catharines Standard.*

"I just would like to do that. I have always been a confidante for my friends and this just seems to extend that experience just a little bit farther."

She says her work at the centre "tied into" the knowledge she acquired from the two psychology courses and the one sociology course she had taken from Niagara College's Continuing Education program in 1983.

Rob Cammaert, 23, of Welland, came to Niagara College in September 1997 from the University of Windsor with a bachelor's degree in psychology.

He says he enrolled in the Social Service Worker program because he was "looking for things that would benefit me in stuff that I would like to do."

Cammaert says he spoke to the co-ordinator of the program, Phil Durrant, who gave him a couple of options, and "I liked that one (Distress Centre Niagara) so I called up, and before I knew it I was in training, and the rest is history."

Cammaert and Culp are two of the 70 volunteers that work at Distress Centre Niagara, a telephone crisis line open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 365 days a year. It services the Niagara Region from Grimsby to Fort Erie. All calls to the centre are confidential, and the centre is volunteer driven. Volunteers are asked to commit to 12 hours of service a month. New volunteers are asked to commit to 144 hours of service in the first year.

Culp, who has been a volunteer at the centre for 14 years, says she takes her shift every Monday from noon to 3 p.m. with the exception of the last Monday of the month when she will take two three-hour shifts. "That gives me a day a week to be there. It's just right."

Cammaert, who has been a volunteer for almost a year, squeezes his hours in when he can. "They are very flexible that way," says Cammaert, who works 30 hours a week in the evenings for a telephone marketing firm, attends classes 35 hours a week at the college, and is a Big Brother to a 13-year-old boy with Big Brothers of South Niagara Inc. for three hours on the weekends.

"Needless to say I'm a fairly busy person, but there are people that are busy, busier than I am doing it (volunteering). People here (at the college) can find time to do it, and it is amazingly rewarding," says Cammaert with an easy smile. "I don't like the fact I don't do it enough."

"I consider that I am a trained listener more than anything else," says Culp. "If you listen to me describing your problem and let me voice it, sometimes (you) see the direction (you) need to go very well on (your) own."

Culp and Cammaert received training on "active listening" — a learned skill that goes beyond hearing what the caller says.

Dee Tyler, program manager, says volunteers are trained to be "respectful and accepting" of their callers problems and let the caller know it is "OK to feel that way."

Although volunteers can refer callers to other agencies to deal with specific problems such as alcohol or drug abuse, it is not the volunteer's job to offer solutions.

"The callers know what they need to do. It's just a matter of finding it out through getting it off their chest

Continued on Page 39

Volunteers needed at Niagara Distress Centre

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Distress Centre Niagara needs volunteers.

Calls in August to the centre went up more than 50 per cent, says Dee Tyler, program manager.

"We've had some really record-setting months. We're over 10,000 calls now."

Running with four full-time office staff, Tyler says the centre has about 70 volunteers filling 12-hour commitments each month. The ideal is 100. "One hundred volunteers usually makes it run fairly efficiently. We're low right now so we want to pick that up."

Distress Centre Niagara is a telephone crisis line open 24 hours a day, seven days a week for 365 days a year, and services the Niagara Region from Grimsby to Fort Erie.

Tyler says it receives 85 per cent of its funding from the United Way offices of St. Catharines, Fort Erie and Welland.

She says the balance is from private donations or from fund-raising events like bingo or dances that are open to the public. The services the centre provides are volunteer driven.

Tyler says about half of the volunteers are students because the centre actively solicits Niagara College and Brock University for volunteers. As well, Tyler says, various students "work with us through their course . . . It helps with their placement and they get some skills for their resume."

Tyler says students "seem to be able to adjust the best to the hours." The centre requires new volunteers to commit to 12 hours of service a month for a one-year period. The 12 hours are broken down into two shifts, one four-hour shift and one eight-hour overnight shift, says Tyler.

However, with students, there is turnover. "They're on to grad school. They're on to jobs. They're moving out of the area."

Therefore the centre, which started in the 1970s as a care line and evolved over the years into the crisis line, is "trying to brainstorm some ideas how to attract longer-term volunteers," says Tyler. Approaching seniors in senior homes might be the next step, says Tyler, as the ages of the volunteers range from 19 to 80.

She says training sessions for new volunteers are run "four or five times" a year. The maximum group size allowed is 30, but Tyler says 15 persons in a group is the average size.

Interested persons are expected to send in an application with three references before the sessions start. The sessions themselves involve three hours a week of training for seven weeks.

Tyler says they spend about three weeks on active listening — a learned skill that goes beyond just hearing what a person says — and then they start to look at the types of calls they can expect to receive with "lots" of role-playing.

"People usually aren't fond of role-playing, but by the end they're really thankful that they had that experience. It is very beneficial."

The seven-week session is followed by a "pre-phone interview" with a member of the staff to "chat out any worries they might have before they start out on the phones," says Tyler, adding this is followed by supervised training for "at least" two shifts answering in-coming calls that can range from marital problems, alcohol abuse, eating disorders to suicide calls.

Volunteers aren't expected to solve their caller's problems, Tyler says, "but to listen with respect and acceptance, and let someone work to their own solutions because ultimately they (callers) know what they've been through and what they need to do."

However, Tyler says, volunteers are trained in suicide intervention in cases in which action is taken to get a rescue unit out to the fraction of callers who have done harm to themselves.

Tyler says training is "a huge commitment, so if people understand what they are getting into before they start, I think that's a lot better."

Tyler says volunteers bring a lot to the centre, and people "really enjoy their volunteer time here because it is such a different job and an essential job."

"It can be overwhelming at times, but it's exciting."

If you would like to volunteer, call Tyler at 905-688-3711.

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International

Chinese visitors tour Motive Power Centre

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

A formal partnership signing between Welland and Tongxiang, China, has confirmed a strong relationship.

An eight-member Tongxiang delegation visited the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at Niagara College's Welland campus on Dec. 5.

The tour started with a welcoming address by Jos Nolle, 42, of Welland, director of the college's International Education Department.

Tim Andersen, 57, of Dundas, general manager of NAMAG Equipment Manufacturing Ltd., in Tongxiang, China, said their visit is a returning trip after a delegation led by Welland Mayor Dick Reuter to Tongxiang in May.

The Whiting Equipment Canada Inc., in Welland, is a partner of NAMAG Equipment Manufacturing Ltd. in a joint-venture project.

The two companies invested about $5 million to build a plant in Tongxiang, Welland's sister city, in China two years ago.

Tongxiang has more than 600,000 people.

The joint venture enables NAMAG to import Whiting's technology while the huge Chinese market is opened to companies in Welland.

A highlight of the visit to Welland and the Niagara Region was an official signing at the Rose City Seniors' Activity Centre regarding a partnership between the two cities and the region.

"The role of sistering will provide a bridge between the two cities through signing a formal agreement," said Andersen.

Gong Yin Yi, 42, mayor of Tongxiang, said through an interpreter the partnership, in fact, was established in May when a visit was made by a Canadian delegation, and this visit is to finalize the partnership as a sister city of Welland.

"Canada's environment is very beautiful, and I'm grateful for this hospitality," said Yi, when asked his opinion of Canada.

The group also visited Toronto and Ottawa, where they met Speaker of the House of Commons Gib Parent, Welland MP.

Eight Chinese visitors tour the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training at the college's Welland campus.

Photo by Mun-Hee Shin

ESL students celebrate Canadian Christmas

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

You're 14 hours away from home, it's Christmas time, and you're not going home for the holidays.

Mari Kuwabara, 21, and Rie Nishijima, 22, of the English as a Second Language program at Niagara College, said they won't be going home for Christmas holidays.

Kuwabara said she doesn't have the money to fly home, and Nishijima agreed, saying they wouldn't have "enough time there."

Instead of being with their families for the holidays, they said they will be celebrating their first Canadian Christmas with their host families in Welland.

Nishijima said her host family is having "a big party," while Kuwabara said her host mother is preparing "a nice Christmas dinner."

Kuwabara said Christmas in Japan isn't as "big a deal" as it is here.

Hardly anyone puts up Christmas trees, said Nishijima.

"(I'm) surprised at how many people decorate houses. (We) don't do that," said Kuwabara.

Both said exchanging presents in Japan is uncommon.

Kuwabara said parents give presents to their children, but usually only until "elementary school because by then children have stopped believing in Santa Claus."

Nishijima said "the Japanese Christmas is commercialized. We don't have a reason to celebrate it."

"We celebrate it for fun," they said, adding they're "excited" about Christmas this year.

Kuwabara said they'll sometimes exchange presents if they're at a party.

Nishijima said in Japan "during winter, rice cakes and clementines (are) common foods."

Over the holiday neither one is sure what she is going to be doing, but Kuwabara said she may go to British Columbia to ski with her former host family.

"In Japan (we used to) say Canada is the best place to go skiing. It's my dream."

As for other holidays, Nishijima said the Japanese celebrate New Year's more than Christmas because it is the "biggest ceremony of the year."

She said people go to a "shrine or a temple and pray and make a wish for the coming year," adding that's when they prepare a fancy meal.

Kuwabara said it's her favourite holiday because "I can relax at home and spend it with my family."

This year she'll be spending it with her host family.

In Japan, unlike Canadians who send Christmas cards, they send New Year's cards.

Nishijima said, "Sometimes (we send) more than 100 cards to friends and relatives."

For Kuwabara and Nishijima it's their first time away from home for Christmas. Although they "miss friends and family," they're looking forward to their first Canadian Christmas.

Kuwabara said "(We'll) know the differences between Japanese and Canadian Christmases when we celebrate it" and "experience it," added Nishijima.

Mari Kuwabara (left) and Rie Nishijima are going to experience their first Canadian Christmas.

Photo by Jackie Field

Exchanging experiences

By MUN-HEE SHIN
Staff Writer

How Niagara College promotes international projects has put Jos Nolle centre stage in a recent educational network conference.

Nolle, 42, of Welland, director of the college's International Education Department, was a key speaker at the Canadian Education Centre (CEC) Network conference and Agent Fair, in Banff, Alta. The network session was held Nov. 16 and 17 followed by the fair Nov. 18 and 19.

The CEC Network's mandate is to promote and market Canada as a destination for international students and as a source for international corporate and group training.

"There are CEC offices which promote education from Canada in other countries, mostly in the Canadian embassies around the world."

The network has more than 230 clients, ranging from Canadian universities, colleges, career colleges and school districts to private secondary schools, language schools and training organizations.

Founded in April 1995, the Vancouver-based CEC Network is a wholly owned subsidiary of the Asia Pacific Foundation. The venue for the CEC's annual meeting changes with next year's planned for Halifax.

Nolle said for the conference's first two days, around 140 people "discussed the CEC functions and exchanged information and their experiences."

"I gave a presentation on promoting marketing diploma programs in a degree market like Taiwan and Malaysia."

The conference's second session was organized to meet agents from 45 countries, such as Greece, Turkey, Argentina, Brazil, South Korea, Japan, Taiwan and China.

JOS NOLLE

"These agents, who do promotion in their own countries, were supposed to meet all the schools that are presented during the fair," said Nolle, adding he met agents from Hong Kong, Brunei, South Korea, Turkey and Brazil.

"They like to meet new schools, to see what we are offering and how we deal with students."

Nolle indicated "the most important point at the conference was the fact that they exchanged their own experiences respectively, suggesting better ideas and opinions on promoting international projects."

Eye On Niagara

French-Mahaffy fund, $372,000 raised

Legal bills $35,000

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

It's been about five years since the deaths of Kristen French, 15, of St. Catharines, and Leslie Mahaffy, 14, of Burlington, Ont., but the struggle continues for their parents.

The Frenches and Mahaffys are in the judicial courts trying to get a provision added to the Criminal Code of Canada to remove a judge's right to allow the public to see or hear tapes containing child pornography or coerced child pornography.

The battle has left the two families with accumulating legal fees.

A fund was started Feb. 20, 1998, by Greg Kelly, 26, of St. Catharines, and Maurice Charbonneau, 46, of St. Catharines, to help the Frenches and Mahaffys with their legal fees.

This fund is called the French-Mahaffy Victims' Integrity Fund and since its inception has raised $372,000.

"If things were to end today, their legal bills would be $35,000," said Kelly, who graduated from Niagara College's Journalism-Print program in 1994, adding there's no end in sight for the court battles.

In September, the Association of Collegiate Entrepreneurs at Brock University (ACE Brock) released a compilation CD entitled **Out of the Unknown.**

The CD costs $7, and $2 from each CD purchase goes to the fund. Artists featured on the CD include Up Yer Kilt, Fifty Diamond Rocks, The Reverends, The Rivermen, Mersey, Confusion of the Senses, Phuse and Vegasphere.

So far, ACE Brock has raised $2,000 for the fund, but copies of the CD are still on sale at all Niagara Sam the Record Man locations; Sophie's, at Brock University; Station to Station and Tantrum Records, in St. Catharines; and Sloth Records and AVE Entertainment in Niagara Falls.

ACE Brock plans to hold benefits to help the fund, like the concert it sponsored at Big Buck's Mountain Lodge, in St. Catharines, on Sept. 16 this year.

A benefit dinner is planned for Jan. 16, 1999, at Club Roma, in St. Catharines. Tickets will cost $40 a person, and Kelly said he anticipates half of that will go towards the fund with the rest covering costs.

"This isn't just about Kristen and Leslie," said Kelly, adding, "it's about the justice system having some compassion."

He said this could have happened to anyone's family, and it's important for the victims' "dignity to remain intact."

Student awarded for leadership, academics

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

What do you get for being an outstanding student? An award, of course.

The 1998 Niagara/Baie-Comeau Community Foundation (Donohue) Scholarship was presented to Jody Kidd, a Law and Security Administration (LASA) program student on Oct. 29.

Kidd, 23, who was born and raised in Owen Sound, lives in the Niagara College Student Residence where she is a Don of a floor. Being a Don includes working at the front desk and keeping her floor in order.

The award is given to a student who has been successful with academics, leadership and community involvement.

Among some of Kidd's services to the community have been security at the Grape and Wine Festival, and the COPS program in Niagara Falls, a program with the Niagara Regional Police (NRP).

Kidd is in her second year at Niagara and has a bachelor of arts from Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo. Her average last year was a 97 per cent.

Kidd said she was "grateful" to receive the award and sent a letter of appreciation to Heather Hodgson, LASA co-ordinator.

Presenting the award to Kidd was Nancy Cain, director in Administrative and Justice Studies, and Frank Parkhouse, a retired deputy chief of the NRP and chair of the LASA and Police Foundations Advisory Committee.

Volunteers needed

By JOSEPH ROWLING
Staff Writer

Volunteers have never been needed more.

The first annual Community Services Showcase was held Nov. 27 in the Niagara College Annex at the Welland campus. It gave volunteer agencies a chance to put up displays and let students know what they can do to help.

Karen Skaftfeld is a volunteer who represented the Welland Block Parent Program at the event.

"It was a good idea to have all the programs in on a special day for students to find out where they can help in the community. Volunteer programs are having a very hard time finding volunteers. If we can get people re-interested, it would greatly help."

Skaftfeld says people go out more often these days and children are often left alone.

"We do our program through the school to try and teach kids safety. Safety is more important than ever now that kids are on their own after school, more often than they were a few years ago."

Joanna Stubbs is a caseworker for Big Sisters. She says the event was "good for us to get our names out there."

"There is a very great need for volunteers right now. We had a lot of students who spoke to us and took some information. I hope that it will help our agency."

Stubbs's role is to match big and little sisters. She attends various events making people aware of the need for volunteers.

"The waiting list is probably the highest it has ever been for big sisters. We are having more kids who want to be little sisters and less who want to be big sisters. We go anywhere we can set up a booth. We will do whatever we can."

Rosemary Chupik is the co-ordinator of volunteers for the Ontario March of Dimes. She brings awareness of her agency, which aids adults with disabilities.

"I thought the displays were really useful. The networking between different agencies and opportunities for students to learn more about the agencies is beneficial to all."

Ann Groves, 37, organized the event. She's the program assistant for the Law and Security Administration (LASA), Police Foundations, and Correctional Worker programs. Prior to this year she worked in security for Niagara for four years and is a LASA graduate from the 1995 class.

The event was a good opportunity for the LASA and Police Foundations students to gain experience. They are required to provide 80 hours of community service each year.

"The purpose of the event was to give the LASA and Police Foundations students an idea of what agencies are out there."

Fourteen agencies showed up, as well as 121 LASA and Police Foundations students. Groves says the students were provided with a good opportunity to meet agencies not as well known as others.

"It was a good opportunity for the agencies to network through one another and get more coverage."

The second annual Community Services Showcase will be held next September.

Box of hope

It's described as a box of hope. About 25 students from the Construction Engineering Technology — Architecture program recently packed two boxes of toys, books and other items for individuals in Third World countries. Called Operation Christmas Child, the project was under the supervision of Niagara College professor Erika Church. Students from the Art & Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program contributed three boxes of gifts. These boxes are going to South America.

Photo by Aaron Beaudoin

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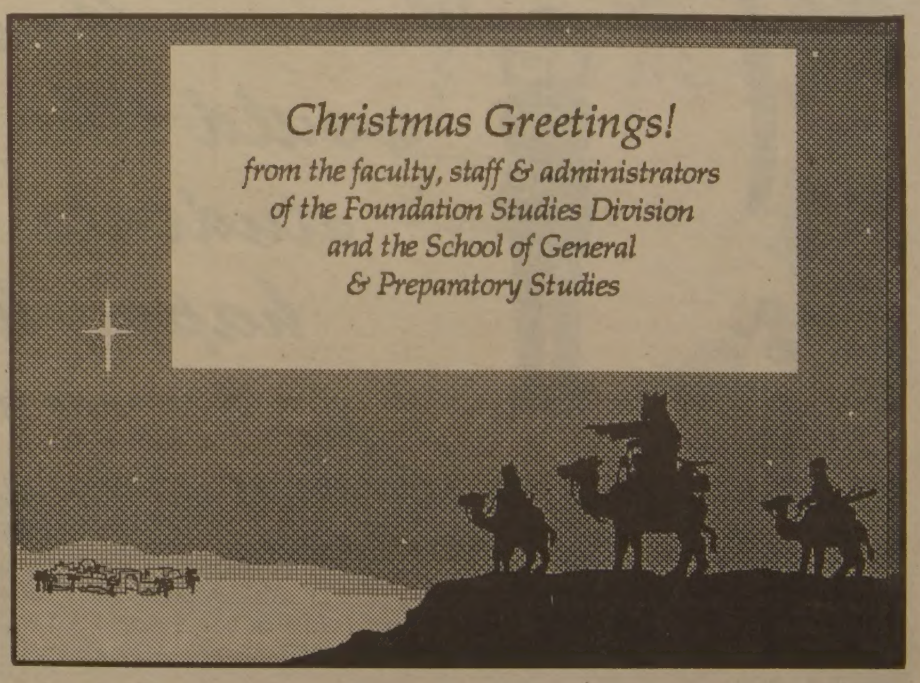
Christmas Greetings!
from the faculty, staff & administrators
of the Foundation Studies Division
and the School of General
& Preparatory Studies

SAC

Drinking, driving don't mix

Scary results

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

Alcohol Awareness Week has Niagara College students realizing the reality of drinking and driving.

The statistics are scary. Information was provided last week for students interested in knowing the facts. Many don't realize eight young people die daily in alcohol-related crashes. It's estimated, from 1992 data, that one in every 280 babies born will die in a vehicle crash involving an intoxicated driver.

Drinking and driving is a problem in Canada and is a growing concern in the United States. There were 16,189 people killed in alcohol-related crashes in the U.S. in 1997. That's an average of one every 32 minutes.

Andrea Black, 21, from the Recreation and Leisure Services program, says, "I was surprised to know how many drunk drivers were actually on the road during the morning hours of the weekdays. From 10 p.m. till 1 a.m. one out of every 13 drivers is drunk. From 1 a.m. till 6 a.m. one out of every seven drivers is drunk.

"If we were to eliminate these statistics, we could eliminate the statistics of deaths by drunk drivers. I'm scared to know how many are actually out at night on the weekends."

Black says the wrecked car outside the Student Administrative Council office at the Welland office may be morbid to some, but she hopes it is an "eye opener" for some people as to what can happen if you drink and drive.

A police officer had a display booth by the Learning Resource Centre on Dec. 2, while SAC and the health nurse had booths three days during the week.

Students who were unaware of the statistics were surprised to know the number of fatalities resulting from drinking and driving. The statistics are still there and the problem is still happening.

SAC President Jamie Ebsary says, "The week was not intended to knock students who drink, but to just teach them to drink responsibly. That means finding a ride home that has not been drinking."

A car, from a drinking and driving accident, was displayed outside the SAC office during Alcohol Awareness Week.
Photo by Angela Pickering

No-cost events key to SAC increase

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

It'll cost Niagara College students more in student council fees even if they're not interested in council-sponsored events funded by those moneys.

The yearly Student Administrative Council (SAC) fees will increase from $66 to $72 in 1999. At its Dec. 3 meeting, SAC agreed the extra money would help provide more events to students at no cost.

Consensus at the session was that Niagara College students need to participate in events SAC offers. Despite a lack of interest in the past, for hockey excursions and movie nights, SAC continues to plan new ones in order to spark attendance.

A new idea is to have World Wrestling Federation Raw, on pay per view, shown on the big screen in the pub. No decision was made but a committee is looking into it.

The idea of running buses free of cost to students, to the college's varsity games was suggested. SAC decided it would look into providing free bus travel to the volleyball or basketball away games. They agreed it would encourage school spirit and support the teams. At the next meeting, specific dates and information will be provided.

Sexual Awareness Week, in the last week of February, has SAC thinking of new ideas to distribute condoms to students. Council agreed to fund a package that includes a condom, a whistle and contraceptive jelly. It will be given to students to encourage safe sex.

SAC's next meeting will be on Jan. 13, 1999 at 12:30 p.m.

The Niagara College
Student Administrative
Council
would like to wish all
students and staff
happy holidays.
See you in 1999
Glendale Student Council .. Maid of the Mist Student Council .. Welland Student Council

SAC

Pub now open

By LISA HEYDON
Staff Writer

Alexander Davidson pub is open for business but an official opening date has yet to be set.

The pub, at Niagara College's new Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, was named after Niagara-on-the-Lake's first mayor.

Although, Alexander Davidson's has not had its grand opening, the pub has been opened for students during the day.

The grand opening, slated for Nov. 24, was postponed when scheduled band, the Skydiggers, had to cancel its performance. Although only two members were performing, the band backed out because of a family situation.

Students can look forward to organized events, as well as live entertainment at Alexander Davidson pub some time during the new year. The official opening is scheduled sometime during January says Stephanie Oram, a bartender at Alexander Davidson's.

SAC prizes arrive

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) prizes have arrived.

SAC's promotional items are here and will be divided out to the Welland, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake campuses according to student population.

Some of the items display SAC's new logo representing all three campuses. The logo was made by council members Michael Berry and Rachel Salomons. Berry is the vice-president of campus events at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, while Salomons is president of SAC at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls.

The promotional items, including hospital pants, shorts, keychains, yo-yos, cards and frisbees cost SAC $15,000. The items will be used for prizes for future contests and games organized by SAC.

SAC there to help

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Niagara College students don't fully appreciate the work the Student Administrative Council (SAC) does for them.

"They think we sit in our office and do nothing," says Michael Chorney, vice-president of campus events for the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls. "All we do is organize alcoholic events.

"This is the minority but the minority is heard the loudest."

Chorney, 20, a second-year Tourism (Co-op) program student, says SAC can benefit students, but some would rather complain about SAC.

"We're there to help the students, but when you get a crowd, at our small campus, that is a heckling crowd, it's hard to shake the rap. (They say) we're nothing but booze hounds and it's just a club for ourselves."

MICHAEL CHORNEY

Chorney says the job to prove otherwise is difficult. He says it's hard to make students believe what SAC is doing is for everyone.

"You have to convince students that what we're doing is great and it's going to be fun.

"Student council is about trying to cut some of the cost (for these events)."

Chorney says it's up to the students to involve themselves instead of complaining about the money that goes to SAC.

"If the students don't willingly involve themselves, there's nothing we can do," he says.

"We encourage students to tell us what they want. We (SAC) are under 20 people making decisions for 5,000 (students). If the 5,000 don't tell us what they want to do, they shouldn't complain."

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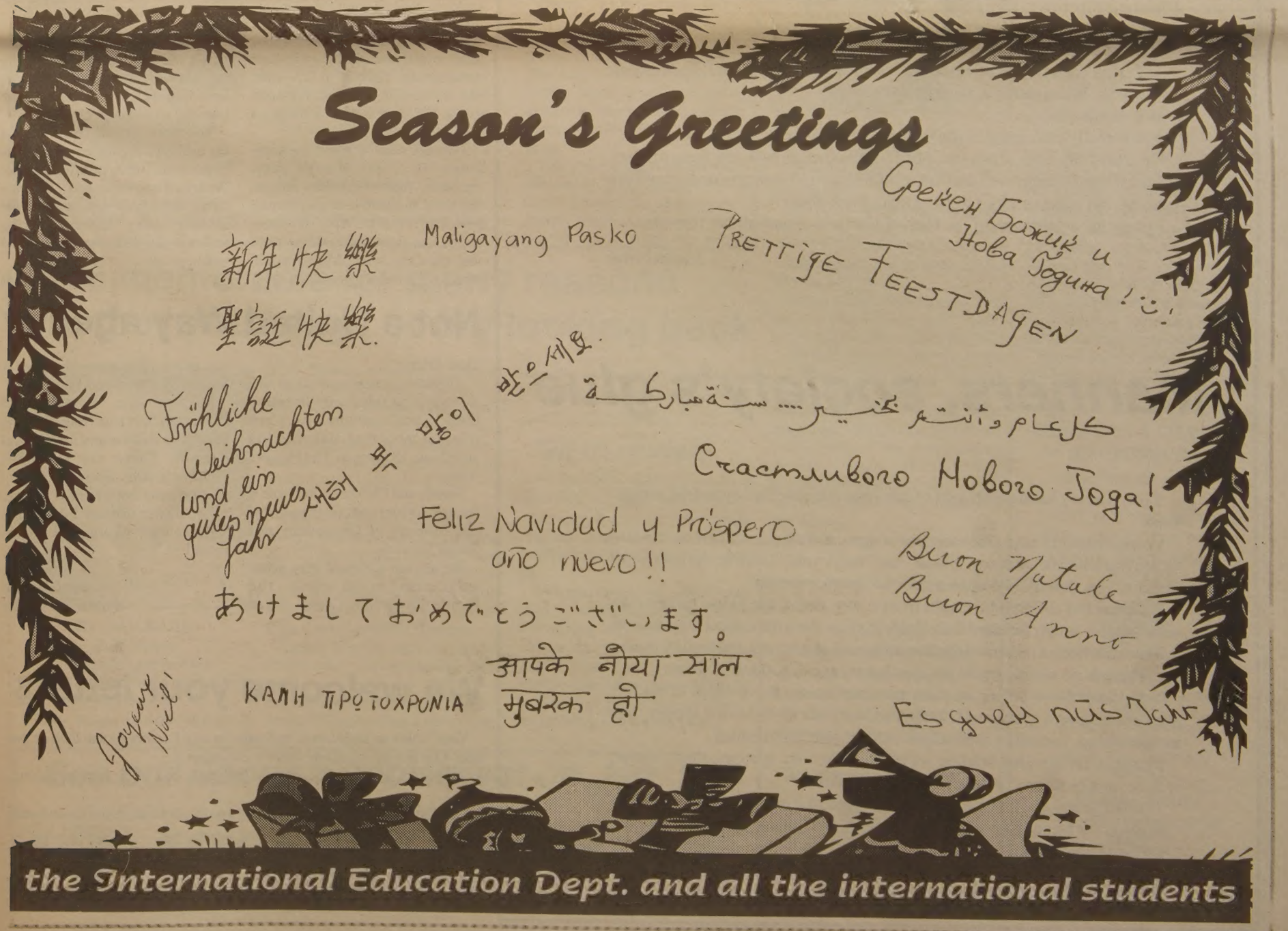

Editorial

Niagara News

The **Niagara News** is a practical lab for the Journalism-Print program, covering the college community and other areas of interest. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the management of the Niagara News or the administration of Niagara College. P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Rd., Welland, Ont. L3B 5S2. Phone (905) 735-2211 Ext. 7753/ 374-7454/ 641-2252/ 563-3254 FAX (905) 736-6005.

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True message being lost

Just as Valentine's Day is a florist's, chocolate and teddy bear maker's dream, Christmas is about money being spent and money being made.

Today, the focus is on packed shopping malls, presents, Christmas lights and letters to Santa. It's about I want, I want, I want.

You spend money on over-priced items that will be out-of-date and out-of-fashion in just months. If you're lucky, you've paid your credit cards off before you start Christmas shopping.

The true meaning of this occasion is no longer what it should be.

I'm not religious, but I respect what Christmas is supposed to be.

If I recall correctly, baby Jesus only received three gifts: gold, frankincense and myrrh. When did this materialism start?

Is it worth it?

Is this really the example you want to set for your children?

On Christmas Eve, when you put your children to bed, tell them to thank Jesus for health, happiness and life. Children are too young to understand this concept, but it doesn't hurt to have them think about it.

I guess the celebration of the birth of Christ is almost all but forgotten.

Jennifer Moir

Manners, society's glue

Every society has defined a set of rules and etiquette far beyond the nation's laws.

Proper manners are a fine example of generational rules. There are no laws which mandate you must say "please" and "thank you." There are no laws which demand you should hold open a door for another person.

It's expected children be taught from a very young age to use proper manners. Parents simply demand their children show them the respect they deserve.

There has been a continual decline in the use of manners and civility in society. There is no simple cause for this, but there is a noticeable trend.

Individuals have begun to place personal needs above those of society. We're becoming a society of self-centered individuals, believing society owes us something, instead of individuals owing society something.

Manners are the glue holding society together. By ignoring them, society will be on a head-on collision course for disaster.

A small headache, if left untreated, will lead to a large problem.

Wouldn't it be simpler to just say "please" and "thank you"?

Please. Thank you.

Jeff Bolan

Letters to editor

Marriages do work

Dear Editor:

Rarely do I find cause to reply to an opinion. I feel all people have a right to them, but I do take exception to the words of Marni Anderson in the column titled "Sadly, most marriages do not last forever" in the Nov. 27, 1998, issue of the *Niagara News*.

Marni, marriage is not a bad, evil thing. I have been married 18 years. We share responsibilities, support each other and together raise our children; we are a unit. In your article you state ". . . two wholes don't function as nicely together." I consider myself a whole. I am a mature, functioning, adult as is my wife, but we work together for common goals. We share our lives, the good and the bad.

I do not want to sugarcoat marriage. It is not always easy. Problems, fights and battles happen, but the difference in a real, mature marriage is that a couple stand toe-to-toe and fight it out, work it out and then say sorry. Many people look for the fast way out. You seem to have given up before you have even started.

You think if a person admires another person it is grounds for divorce. I think this shows a jealous attitude. Both men and women are going to always look and admire; we are human. However, it does not always lead to cheating. I believe it shows a trusting, happy relationship when you can look, get caught and you both laugh about it. In fact, it is the people who do not admit to looking who scare me.

I feel lucky to have married a lady I respect and enjoy spending my life with. Respect is what you have forgotten to mention. It is the base for all relationships.

You have missed checking out the millions of couples who quietly go about life as married people. We are often overlooked. Our lives do not make front page news but we are here raising children, working and enjoying life, together as two whole people.

Paul Dayboll

Not a United Way agency

Dear Editor:

This letter is in regards to an article written by Tyler-Leigh Robinson titled "Child's welfare FAC's priority for more than 100 years" in your Nov. 13 issue of The Niagara News.

Family and Children's Services is funded 100 per cent by the provincial Ministry of Community and Social Services.

We are not a United Way agency as stated in the article. The Family Counselling Centre, one of our many programs, is partially funded by the United Way.

Furthermore, Family and Children's Services Niagara is the Children's Aid Society for Welland Region. There are no other Children's Aids Societies in service and none that are out of service.

I would like to thank Tyler-Leigh Robinson for writing the article about FACS.

Sincerely,
John Savoie
Public Relations

We welcome your letters

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submission is:

1. All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication.

2. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.

3. All letters must be signed and include a day and evening phone number for verification use only.

All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Rm. S212, Simcoe Building, Welland campus.

Viewpoints

Women lost when they killed chivalry

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

The war for women's equal rights is far from over, but the women are winning — and they're not happy about it.

Long gone are the days of chivalry, when men and women followed strict rules of conduct. No longer do little boys pull out the chairs of the little girls beside them.

Rarely is the car door opened for a woman, except occasionally on the first date.

There are countless other examples of what men once did for women in the way of chivalry. However, it was always a two-way street, a binding contract for both sexes. Both sides had responsibilities and ways of dealing with the other sex.

No longer do women wear long elegant evening gowns. Jeans are the order of the day. No longer do they spend all day getting ready for an important dinner. A quick shower will do. That corset? Thankfully long gone, right? Whatever happened to those cute little white gloves, anyway?

Many women want it all. They would like freedom in the job market, equal rights and pay equity.

Who am I to disagree? I think those are mighty fine ideals and worth fighting for. If roles were reversed, I assure you I would be on the front line fighting.

Yet there is something about a five foot, two inch, 110-pound firefighter that frightens me, regardless of the person's sex. It's just a delightfully sad twist of fate that women are smaller than men.

On one hand, we've got women who are proclaiming their independence and fighting for equality. On the other hand, we've got the same women saying they would like it if men would open the doors for them.

I've got news for you, ladies. Most people will hold the door open for you. There is a really simple rule we should all follow: if you get to a door before the person behind you, hold it open for him or her. You might be surprised, but it works pretty well.

It's hard to have it both ways — strength and virility on one hand, meekness and timidity on the other. By reaching for equality, women have actually given away rights and powers.

The rules of chivalry were in place to protect the rights of women. Women were granted power and prestige.

Does not the servant do the work of his master? Likewise, the men would open the doors for women.

By fighting for equal rights, women have gotten far more than they bargained for.

You can't have everything. Actually, you've given most of it away.

Contact Jeff about this or any other topic at jeffycool@hotmail.com

Good music, bad prices

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

Who puts the price on good music?

Being a fan of a less than a popular genre of music, that being heavy metal, I feel the larger music stores, such as Sam's and HMV, are nailing me to the wall.

Why is it the average CD I wish to purchase usually costs me anywhere from $6 to $10 more than the everyday unoriginal pop stuff that's being engraved into our brains constantly?

I'll accept the fact some of the bands I choose might be a tad obscure to some. Bands such as Spineshank, Hed Pe, Clutch, Coal Chamber and System of a Down may not be shooting up the charts like Spice Girls or whatever is the pop group of the month , but why are these CDs so overpriced? The stores should want to get rid of them.

The CDs that should be carrying the high sticker price are the so-called pop that's guaranteed to fly off the shelves. Cut us metal fans a break and lower the price.

There's a bit of a solution to this very disturbing problem, *and that is independent record stores. God bless the independent store owners. These stores usually have, or will get, anything to meet your needs, and on average, at a considerably lower price.*

Are independent stores the saviour of good music? Only time will tell but for now they've got my business.

Watch your back

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Rumours abound: There's a new way to kill.

Rumours are being whispered everywhere about a new way to be infected with AIDS. It involves no sexual contact and no drugs — just needles and blood.

Some people have heard they must be careful in crowded, noisy areas, such as bars. If anyone felt a pinch and noticed a sticker on his or her back exclaiming, "Welcome to the world of AIDS," he or she was another victim of people infecting others with the deadly disease.

The rumour was that people, mostly in bars, were travelling around with needles of virus-infected blood and injecting unsuspecting victims.

The real truth is the police have had no reports of this happening in the Niagara region or in Toronto.

The question remains: Is it a rumour or has it happened and not been reported?

I tend to believe it's a rumour and that someone would have reported such a serious crime.

It's never safe to trust the words of a friend without concrete evidence. If you stopped going to bars or were paranoid about people when you were in a bar, for now, there is no reason to be worried.

I don't know why people would start such a rumour unless they thought it was a joke. I personally don't think it's funny to scare many people with the possibility of death.

Nevertheless, it's always smart to be careful anywhere. There are many ways to be infected with AIDS and there are other worries when drinking at a bar. Consider the new rohipnal drug people use to get unwilling people in bed.

Being careful, especially when drinking, is always safer and much better than the alternatives.

1998 memorable for many reasons whether you laugh or cry looking back

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

So 1998 will soon be over.

Many events could mark 1998 as the best year ever.

They might include the New York Yankees winning the Major League Baseball World Series, the movie *Saving Private Ryan* telling a horrifying but true war story, musical rockers The Rolling Stones touring and the peace agreements in Ireland and the Middle East.

Other events could mark this the worst year ever: the U.S. President Bill Clinton-Monica Lewinsky sex scandal, the SwissAir 111 airplane crash, the deaths of U.S. Senator Sonny Bono, and actor/comedians Chris Farley and Phil Hartman.

I guess it's that time of year to review what you have and haven't done.

I've had a good year mostly because I've become a better person. We learn from our accomplishments and mistakes. That's what makes us grow and learn.

'98 in review

It's hard to give the year a mark overall. Some days and some months have been better than others.

I've met new people; some I wish I hadn't, some I'm glad I did. Others I'm waiting to meet.

Here is a little advice I heard this year, "If you don't look back on your year and don't have anything to make you laugh and cry about, you haven't had a good year."

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See our Sports Supplement on Jan. 22

HAVE A SAFE HOLIDAY

Viewpoints

Term 'stepmother' misunderstood

By ANGELA PICKERING
Staff Writer

The term "stepmother" needs to be abolished.

I am not legally a stepmother but I play the role of one. I am extremely tired of the misconceptions of what it means.

I'm in a relationship with a man who has a daughter. I've been with him for two years. There's a strong chance we'll get married. I entered the relationship when his daughter was six months old, so she's grown up knowing me.

She isn't my child, but I love her. I'm tired of people telling me all the reasons why I shouldn't be involved with a man who has a child. I'm especially tired of those who think stepmothers are nasty witches who rip a family apart and take the child away from the birth mother.

Nobody takes into consideration my feelings of having an extra person to be responsible for. I'm 19 years old and never asked for a child to instantly become part of my life. When you love someone, you love that person unconditionally. That means you do even if there is a child too.

I've seen this child through every step of her life. I've watched her start walking, eat solid food, and go from a crib into a bed. I've watched her grow from a baby into a toddler. Not for one moment would I give any of it up.

I love her as much as her father or biological mother. I get angry when people tell me I shouldn't feel that way or that I should let her father do everything for her. They're always saying,"She is not your kid, so stop pretending that she is." I don't have to pretend anything.

When she comes crying to me with a scraped knee and says, "Nannie, boo boo!" (that's how she says my name), what am I supposed to tell her? Am I to say, "Go to your father"? I don't think so. If I'm to be with her father, then I believe I carry half the responsibility of caring for her when she's with us.

In my eyes, we are a family. She is young, but she knows what goes on around her and I know she'd never look at me as a stepmother, but rather a second mother. To her it is a bonus to have two mother figures to love her.

I believe fate deals you a card and if you don't like it, you're always entitled to flip another one over. I had that choice. Every time I look at her and see the innocence and love in her eyes, I know I've made the right decision. She's been an unexpected blessing in my life.

Someday I'll have my own children. To them I'll be a "mother," but even then, my little girl will never be replaced, nor will I make her feel as though she's been a "burden" or any less important to me than my "birth" children.

To some people I won't ever be more than a "stepmother." To her I am so much more.

Buyers beware

By CHRISTINE MORGAN
Staff Writer

"Push on the gas pedal!"

"I am, I am!"

OK, so it's not "the one," but it cost me $1,600 and it runs great, aside from the lack of acceleration.

The frustration of wanting a car of my own is not over, not even close to it.

After finding a 1986 Renault Alliance in the *Auto Trader* on the same day as the *Niagara News* was published, I thought, wow, things are going well for me.

A couple of days later I phoned a teenager in St. Catharines to say yes, I did want the car. At that point he had had no other phone calls from people wanting to buy it.

Maybe that was a hint? I don't know, but I vow not to believe someone who says there is nothing wrong with his or her vehicle for sale.

At the bare minimum, something has to be wrong. After all, the person is selling the car.

I thought maybe $200 of repairs were needed to make the car pass the safety check — as did my mechanic.

It turned out to be $700 despite a low labour charge. The car was certified and ready to go. However, it's still needs other repairs, such as a timing belt.

Now I need to earn some money.

I started a new job, photographing sports teams. The pay is good, but managing money from pay cheque to pay cheque is hard.

I worry about insurance, gasoline prices, oil and other maintenance costs.

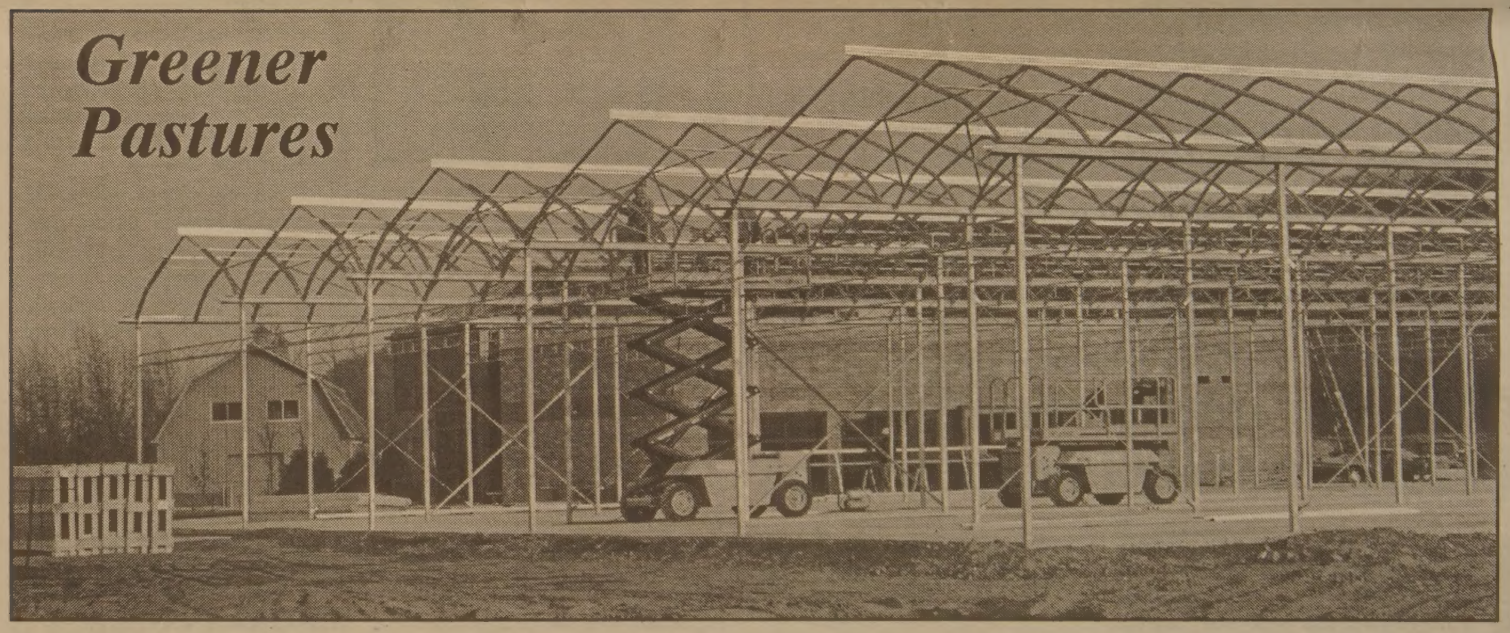
Parking is a concern. I have to keep change for parking metres and buy parking passes.

I recently began writing notes to my neighbour, who insists she should park in front of my house, not her own.

Even worse, I can't get her car towed because it is on public property.

I still believe the car was a good choice, although owning it is has been a whole different experience.

Greener Pastures



The landscape at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake is undergoing change with the construction of the 16,000-square-foot greenhouse complex now underway. It is being built by Greenhouse Growers Supplies Inc. of Vineland. Tom Ball, horticultural and landscape technician, says the greenhouse is scheduled to be completed on Jan. 15, 1999.

Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Solutions easier when more simple resolutions used

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

In a world without dynamic leadership, we are destined to falter with every decision made.

Solutions need not be difficult. Actually, the simpler the solution or the more accessible the solution, the easier it is to implement.

Instead of speaking the language of the experts, we should focus on breaking complex ideas into simple concepts.

For example, international trade and finance isn't about macro-economics, micro-economics, the balance of trade or the currency exchange rate. It's about confidence. It's about finding something the other guy wants badly enough to give you whatever it is you want.

Often, the bigger the words and the trickier the terminology, the more someone is trying to hide something.

As the world gets smaller, our problems get larger. That does not mean our solutions need to get larger.

The best way to get along with disagreeable neighbours is to build a fence between the properties. You can do what you like on your side of the fence, and your neighbours can enjoy their own side.

Our leaders seem to have forgotten such simple solutions.

In the on-going Ontario teachers' strike, both sides continue to throw a barrage of complex arguments to the public.

Both sides have a valid argument, but the public is more likely to side with the voice that they can understand. If you don't understand something, how can you be in favour of it?

Larger issues facing the globe are tackled with the same complexity by world leaders.

Does anybody really understand what is happening in the Balkans?

We should. The problem didn't just start a few years ago, for it has been around for hundreds of years.

Why is the crumbling Russian economy hurting Western economies? Economists will give you a thousand explanations but still not give you the answer. Is it because they don't know the answers, or because they don't want you to know the answers?

It should be no surprise to anyone that events have been gaining momentum, and the worst appears to be ahead of us, rather than behind. Instead of continued meetings and countless reports, amounting to a staggering waste of manpower and resources, the problems should be tackled.

In other words, our leaders should do something! We don't want them to tell us they have things in control. We don't want them to say they are doing something to solve the problems. Please don't explain the problems to us in absurd terms.

Tell us simply and in a straightforward manner so the man on the street can understand.

Eye On Niagara

New classes begin

Continuing Education's new winter calendar delivered in Region, introduces 25 new technology, health-care courses

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Continuing Education tries to "envision what will be in demand" when introducing new courses in its calendars.

Continuing Education's new winter course calendar was delivered to homes in the Niagara Region the weekend of Nov. 20, and it contains about 25 new classes.

Foster Zanutto, 53, of Fonthill, director of Continuing Education, said the department tries to look at trends in the region, at the areas which would require upgrading and at student input when adding classes to the calendar.

"We try to envision what will be in demand."

Zanutto said the new courses are in areas relating to the health-care industry and technology.

He said this is a result of the continuing need for upgrading in the health-care field. "The whole area of computer applications is expanding."

Some courses were dropped from the calendar. Zanutto said these include classes which are outdated, such as "older" computer technologies like Windows 3.11.

"We're anticipating an enrolment in the winter term of about 5,700 students," he said, adding, "I have every expectation that we'll accomplish that goal."

Zanutto said courses in the works for the upcoming spring calendar are focusing on general interest, such as golf and sailing.

He said he hoped secondary school students would be interested in some of these courses.

In the future, Zanutto said he expects growth in on-line classes as well as in classes dealing with health-care specialty areas such as palliative care, senior care and mental health.

Continuing Education offers computer sessions in Fort Erie

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Niagara College continues to span across the Niagara Region.

For two years, the college's Continuing Education division has been offering classes at the Fort Erie Adult Training Centre, at 54 Jarvis St.

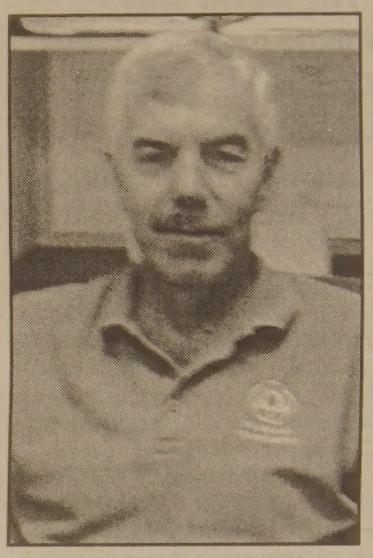
Ganawageh Urban Homes owns the training centre. In 1996, Wayne Hill, the centre's executive director, and Niagara College President Dan Patterson signed an agreement allowing the college to offer Continuing Education classes at the facility. GUH Technologies Inc. runs the ATC.

"We haven't developed a very large market in Fort Erie, but we want to," says Foster Zanutto, 53, of Fonthill, director of Continuing Education.

The college offers five computer-related classes in Fort Erie: How to Use a Computer, Internet: A Beginner's Guide, Windows '95 - Level I, Word '97 - Level II and Writing Web Pages - Part I.

Zanutto says the college started offering computer classes because that's the "largest area of demand."

He says he hopes to expand the courses offered at the facility to include classes in traditional education and in other skill areas.



FOSTER ZANUTTO

The facility is used for contract training to upgrade employee skills for companies, such as Custom Pharmaceuticals Ltd. of Fort Erie.

The centre is equipped with a computer lab, and its students receive the same courses and credits as those received by students taking the same courses at any of the college's other campuses.

The centre has an enrolment of about 40 to 50 students a term, but Zanutto says he hopes to double that number.

He says he would like to attempt to market classes to Buffalo, N.Y., residents.

"With the dollar the way it is, it would be attractive to them."

He says the facility enables the college to provide Fort Erie with classes, and its residents can "take advantage of the courses without leaving the community."

Zanutto says Continuing Education will continue to offer classes at the centre and plans to offer courses at other community facilities.

He says he's in discussions with people at the Roselawn Complex, at 296 Fielden Ave., Port Colborne, about offering courses there.

LRC designed for students

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — If you build it, they will study.

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) at Niagara College's Glendale campus was designed and built with students in mind, says Trish Labonte, manager.

When it was first mentioned the Glendale campus would be a reality, Labonte took the opportunity to meet with teachers and students to see what ideas they had for the LRC.

"I got all sorts of wonderful feedback from them and basically that directed our approach to the centre."

The first thing students asked for was group study areas.

"A lot of our experience at Welland (campus) was that we hadn't had any group study areas, so that was one of the things we really wanted."

Other ideas students felt were necessary were a place to hook in laptop computers, access to database information, places to study quietly and a place to sit comfortably and read.

"The only thing up till now that we haven't put in that they suggested . . . an aquarium."

Labonte says she'd like to bring some life into the LRC and the Horticulture program may be just the way to do it.

She has been talking to the "horticulture people about doing some plantscaping within the LRC."

"What this does is give us the opportunity to take a little different spin on it (and) to take advantage of the Horticulture programs that are here and see if we can be part of that."

Labonte says the flexibility of the LRC is special because "we are very interested in assisting students in research skills."

The LRC has been wired to provide access to the college's database from virtually anywhere in the library.

Labonte says if more space is needed for students to use the system it can be expanded anywhere it needs to be.

Along with the system, the students have other options when doing research.

The LRC has group studies rooms where up to six people can get together and discuss their projects.

Labonte says one of the LRC's goals is to get white boards for the group study areas to assist students in projects.

Rooms for quiet study are available as well as a room for individuals that need some assistance in their studies from a peer tutor.

Labonte says this is a "nice service run through the counselling department" because it provides a quiet space within the school for tutoring.

Other resources available to students are a map study area, a video area, study carrels for individuals, lower study carrels by the window for students who want to look at the view, and a class held to help students use the resources.

Labonte says although the LRC at Glendale campus is smaller than the one at Welland campus, "the layout is more efficient and it's all on one floor."

"Basically we came from a student place. We think we've been able to provide for it."

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Eye On Niagara

Spirit of Niagara awards welcomed Niagara College

By TIFFANY HERRON
Staff Writer

Welcome to the neighbourhood.

The annual Spirit of Niagara awards welcomed Niagara College in a special presentation Nov. 18.

This ceremony, held at the Queen's Landing in Niagara-on-the-Lake, was hosted by the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce and Visitor and Convention Bureau. It's a special salute to honour businesses and citizens in the community.

Karin Jahnke Haslam, Citizen of the Year, made the presentation. College President Dan Patterson accepted the plaque, which recognizes Niagara College's arrival in Niagara-on-the-Lake, an arrival that was "long overdue" says Haslam.

Patterson thanked the Chamber members.

"The college is very proud to be in Niagara-on-the-Lake. The new Glendale campus is excited about its improved ability to meet the training needs of the region and to better serve our students," says Patterson. "We are emerging as one of the best mid-sized colleges in Canada and we're proud of it."

'The world may forget your face, but they won't forget your brick.'
— Dan Patterson

The Chamber pledged $3,000 to the college over the next three years, an amount which will be matched by the province's Action Funds. This takes the total to $12,000 for the college's Foundation.

Patterson took the opportunity to mention the college's brick campaign. This is a donation program with an "incentive" to pledge.

With each donation of $100 or more, the donor's name will be inscribed in a brick which will be put into the foundation at the new campus as part of a walkway.

"The world may forget your face, but they won't forget your brick," Patterson said.

The Citizen of the Year award began in 1963. The winner is a resident of the community and must be nominated.

In 1990 the Business of the Year category began. To qualify for the business award, the firm must be in the Niagara-on-the-Lake area, but doesn't have to be a Chamber member.

Three years ago the two ceremonies were combined in a special evening, says project co-ordinator Colleen Bice.

Dan Patterson, college president, holds the plaque presented to the college by Karin Jahnke Haslam.
Photo by Tiffany Herron

Niagara College meeting new standards

By JENN MOIR
Staff Writer

With a new "mind-set," Niagara College is striving to meet new "standards."

Tim Mackey, of Jordan, supervisor of Maintenance/Plant Operations, says the parking lot behind the Welland campus After Hours Pub and Black Walnut building was paved because it was "a constant complaint from people."

He says people would complain about the mud and potholes, and the lot had to be regraded about twice a year.

Mackey says, with funds generated from parking fees, the new lot can be "orderly" with designated lines for parking, four spaces allotted for the handicapped, and easier access and moveability for snow removal.

He says "it cleans the whole area up" and will prevent traffic from going onto the grounds "by defining the boundaries."

Mackey says the paving of the lot "is part of an ongoing renewal and repair.

'an issue of due diligence'
—Tim Mackey

"We are trying to renew the campus and raise the standard."

Mackey says other parking lot improvements have been made.

Entrances have been closed off and deteriorated entrances have been repaired. New curbing, catch basins, sunken storm drains and line painting have been redone.

Improvements have also been made to landscaping.

Mackey says in previous years there weren't the funds to make improvements, but "through real good management" the college is operating "more as a business."

He says "the better you maintain what you have" the more cost-efficient it is in the long term.

"Ongoing maintenance and preventative maintenance is key."

With this "mind-set" the college, says Mackey, will be making more improvements in the new year.

He says the parking lot by the students' residence will be paved and curbing and sidewalks will be replaced to create better accessibility for the handicapped.

Mackey says it is "an issue of due diligence."

The newly paved parking lot was done by Welland Paving with the cost between $20,000 and $30,000.

Teacher promoting new book

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Fate has its reasons.

It led this teacher to do something he's always been interested in — write.

Because of scarce jobs in education and assistance from the self-employment program at Niagara College's Glendale campus Innovation Centre, in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Kevin McCabe, a part-time teacher at Brock University, decided to get into writing.

McCabe has taught a variety of subjects at Brock University. This year, he's a part-time instructor in the faculty of education. The budget cuts in education has made it difficult for him to find a job, he says, so he started participating in the self-employment program.

Collecting Victorian poems and old illustrations such as postcards, he compiled *The Poetry of Old Niagara* , a collection of 78 poems and 100 illustrations on the Niagara Region's local history.

"A lot of the poems are commemorating battles and individuals," said McCabe, pointing to Laura Secord, and Sir Isaac Brock's monument in Queenston, and the Battle of Ridgeway against the invading Fenians. He said the poems are "nostalgic" and have a "backwards" way of looking at things.

To make money on the book, McCabe says he must sell 5,000 copies of the locally published work.

He's was at the college's Welland campus yesterday and will be at Glendale campus Dec. 15. The official book launch was held Dec. 5 at the St. Catharines Library.

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Up Close

Welland mayor sends New Year's wishes

Local economy expected to grow

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

Christmas season is known for exchanges of Merry Christmas and Good wishes for the New Year .

In accordance with that spirit, Welland Mayor Dick Reuter is wishing citizens of Welland and surrounding municipalities the best in1999.

Speaking from City Hall on East Main Street, the mayor says he wishes everyone "health, prosperity and happiness" in the coming year.

His comprehensive New Year's message included what he says would be the local economy's continued growth and jobs creation through 1999 and in "the next half decade, at least."

"The Niagara Region, and Welland in particular, is poised for growth," he says. "We anticipate a number of new projects to happen in our community."

These include a 1,200-new home development at Highway 406 and Woodlawn Road.

The subdivision, to be known as St. Andrew's Terrace, is being developed by Welland-based The Daimler Group. It will feature a links-style 18-hole golf course.

Also, plans are in the pipeline for a new city hall to be built on East Main Street between Cross Street and The Boardwalk in downtown Welland.

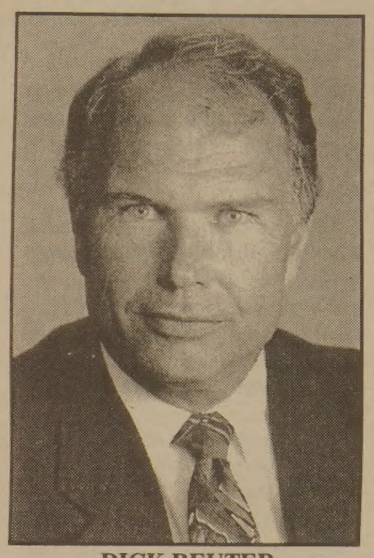
"A number of banks and major insurance companies are interested in being part of it. It is hoped the library and the YMCA will locate."

In addition, the Toronto Dominion bank is building a branch on Niagara Street North.

Commisso's Food Market has opened a new store at the corner of Thorold and South Pelham Road.

The mayor attributes this growth to the city's "open for business attitude."

"I personally encourage and talk to developers to come to this municipality."



DICK REUTER

Welland has other developments. In 1997 the city issued 519 building permits worth about $33 million, the highest figure since 1991. Residential construction permits led the way, followed by commercial and industrial permits.

As a result, the city's unemployment rate has decreased from "over 20 per cent" in the early 1990s to about eight per cent this year.

Its downward slide, he says, is expected to continue.

Drawing a distinction between the municipality and others in the Niagara Region, Reuter says Welland is a commercial, high-tech and heavy industrial city.

Therefore, the city won't take the "direction" of gaming-type businesses such as those in Niagara Falls and Fort Erie.

He acknowledged Welland has the highest tax rate of any municipality in the Region, but says the city has looked after the environment.

"When I became mayor there were three sewer lines dumping raw sewage directly into the Welland River."

He says all waste water now goes through the water treatment plant. "The result is extremely high water rates."

He added taxes haven't gone up except in "one year" of the seven he's been in office and the city is doing what it can to hold the line.

Welland has a long history. Author William H. Lewis writes in his book *The Beginning Years* it was settled on Nov. 9, 1828.

Today, it has a population of about 50,000. Two of the city-based companies, Tri-Media Marketing and Fantom Technologies, are in the list of Canada's fastest-growing companies. The list is compiled by *Profit*, a well-regarded national business magazine.

Regarding his political career, Reuter says he intends to stand for re-election in the year 2000.

A fifth-generation Welland resident, he was first elected in 1991. He says it would be hard to find a family in the city for more than 20 years whom he doesn't know of or know of relatives.

His accomplishments, he says, include having been able to bring Douglas H. Rapelje Lodge to Welland, an upper-class home for the aged on Plymouth Road.

He added he'd like to improve the city's infrastructure and make Welland an "even better place to live."

Placement prepares student for work field

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

On-the-job placement helps students prepare for the work field.

Heather McGinnis, 21, of Welland, a second-year Early Childhood Education (ECE) student, says the children she works with are "amazing."

McGinnis's placement is at Kids World Day Care Centre in Welland. She works with newborn infants up to 18 months.

She's taken over the role as teacher, McGinnis says. "I'm involved in all the feeding and diapering."

Her placement hours are in the morning, for 15 hours a week. She says her schedule at Niagara College "is a lot this term. Right now it is pretty full. The majority of the time I am here (at the college) until 5:30 to six in the evening."

McGinnis was placed at the day care by Allison Soave, ECE coordinator, to gain experience with infants. Previously, she worked primarily with pre-schoolers ages three to five years.

Her other placements have been with children of various age ranges because "when you're out in the workfield you have experiences with all of them."

Her current placement, she says, has been "very, very beneficial," adding, "I acquire a great deal from the placement. The hands-on experience, it's not something you can get from the classroom."

McGinnis says "the fact that knowing everything you do and say to them (children) they retain . . . every day they surprise you with something new."

After graduating, McGinnis says she'd like to move to British Columbia and own her own day care.

"I find it really rewarding to know that everything I do, they are benefiting from and gaining knowledge . . . hopefully to better themselves and to get a good head start."

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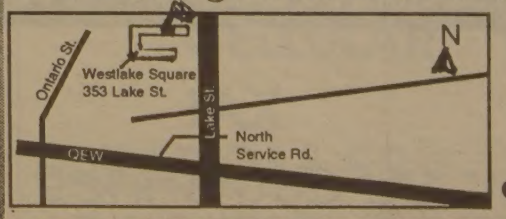

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Up Close

Calypso pioneer makes waves in Canada

Photo by Rachel Czifra

TREVOR WALCOTT

By ROBIN MORAIS
Staff Writer

Trevor Walcott has the distinction of playing in one of the first professional Caribbean Calypso bands to tour Canada.

He did, and continues to do so, with a 10-member group called Troubadours International comprising West Indians from the Caribbean territories of St. Kitts, St. Lucia, Guyana and Barbados.

Walcott, a person with a warmth and friendliness inherent among West Indian people, is one of the band's lead and background vocalists. He also plays a stunning range of musical instruments such as the trombone, saxophone, drums, flutes, keyboards and the steelband.

"We sang Calypso all over the country, from the small cities to the big cities," he proudly said. Saskatoon to northern Ontario and Quebec were on the itinerary.

Walcott is from Barbados, the land of the flying fish.

He said, with pride in his voice, Calypso music is becoming more popular in Canada, largely through the years of hard work by Calypso bands.

Another key factor is modern musical technology.

"With the sort of musical technology at the disposal of many Calypsonians, such as modern recording facilities, more and more of them now have the opportunity to record and travel to the major cities within North America and the rest of the world, thereby promoting their CDs, cassette tapes and records to eager musical audiences," he said.

Calypso, a West Indian music, originated in the Caribbean island of Trinidad and Tobago in the mid-19th century.

The word Calypsonian is the name given to an artiste who sings Calypso.

Walcott, 49, has been playing Calypso music for over 40 years.

"For as long as I can remember, I've been singing Calypso," Walcott stated.

His mother, who raised nine children, taught him his first solo gospel, which he sang as a 15-year-old teenager at the church he attended.

He gratefully praised his mother for giving him a musical foundation by teaching him a rudimentary knowledge about singing, despite her not being a professional performer herself.

From there, he did a lot of church singing, which helped him to develop his vocal talents.

Despite studying and liking classical music at the age of 15, he found his love and appreciation for Calypso was growing on him as he aged.

"I listened to a lot of Trinidadian and Tobagonian Calypsoes on the radio in Barbados, which got my attention as a youth, and I used to hang out with the guys on the street corner where we used to sing Calypsoes and play guitars and the box drums to a Calypso beat," Walcott said.

Eventually playing and recording Calypsoes, his favourite music, became his full time pursuit.

"By this time —I'd say this was during the 1960s — the popularity of Calypso music increased greatly throughout the West Indies and the world, so it was quite easy for me to get into professionally and let it become a part of my life," he stated.

In the 1970s, he found himself playing with one of the biggest Calypso bands to come out of Barbados at that time, the Tropical Islanders.

He soon moved onto another sizzling Calypso outfit called Fantasies out of Grenada which, along with Tropical Islanders, are defunct.

It was 1973 he joined his present band, Troubadours International, and started touring Canada with them.

In the early 1980s, he grew tired of the constant touring. He decided to get his landed immigrant status, then his Canadian citizenship and pursue a more quiet life.

"After my divorce at this time, I decided to settle down in a tranquil place like St. Catharines," he said.

Walcott stated Troubadours International has existed since 1966 and he's been with them for 25 years.

"This is our band. We work well together and play our kind of Calypsoes. We also live like a family," he said.

Walcott stated in the 1970s and the early 1980s, the band was a full-time occupation but now the members only play on a semi-professional basis.

He described Calypso as a type of music usually sung in a story form with some of it dealing with politics in a humorous and some in a serious way.

"It's an expression of the living conditions of the masses of the people within the Caribbean island countries and the wider world," he said.

Walcott added the Calypsoes heard in Canada are watered down for Canadians to understand because it isn't the kind of music sung in standard English.

"If it's sung in real English, it doesn't sound like a true Calypso," he firmly said.

Walcott said Calypso is sung in a unique dialect using a combination of African, East Indian, and English words. He said it probably started during the days of slavery in Trinidad and Tobago but could have started long before that.

In his opinion, reggae and Calypso have their place in the world of music.

Driving change essential for human resourcers

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — *Innovation. Change. Diversity. Results.*

These are buzz words of doing business in the 1990s, and increasingly they are becoming the buzz words for human resources practitioners. Once pigeon-holed into the day-to-day tasks of payroll, health and safety, and attendance management, today's human resources practitioners are being asked to drive change within their organizations.

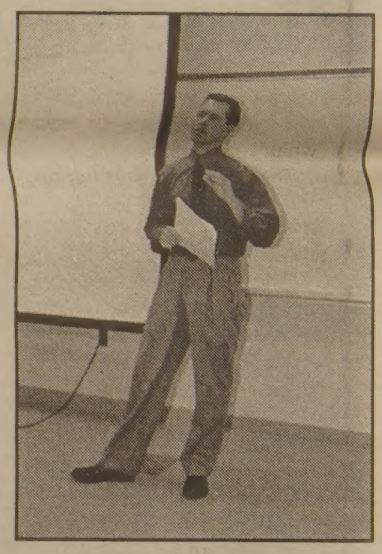
"The traditional human resource person is a dying breed," said Tom Mather, human resources manager for the Town of Fort Erie. "If you don't drive change within your organization as part of a human resources department, and you're just maintaining the status quo of maintenance . . . you are going to be outsourced out of a job."

Mather was at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake speaking to first-year business administration students in the Human Resources Management 1 class on Monday, Nov. 9. Mather, a graduate of Niagara College from the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film program in 1981, started in the clerk's department at the town in 1991 and moved into his current position in 1996 when the human resource position was created at the town.

Mather says students coming into human resources should be prepared to continue to upgrade their education and be willing to adapt and "practise new skills every day."

"That whole life-long learning thing is far more than just a slogan."

Human resources is taking on a "much broader role" within the organization, says Mather. Management increasingly sees human resource practitioners as business partners being the stewards for change. Consequently, practitioners are expected to understand business. He says "practitioners are expected to be able to look at the company's goals — their strategies and their objectives — understand this information from a business perspective and translate that into people and processes."



TOM MATHER

Mather says if a practitioner does not know how to do certain aspects of the job and is not prepared to identify those skills gaps nor get the education to help fill in those gaps then "you're going to get run over by people who do know how to do that (job)."

Keeping open lines of communication with management and employees with information sharing goes a long way towards building trust and credibility as a practitioner, says Mather.

Being accountable for end results and being ethical, confident and professional in all aspects of your job will "give you the opportunity to exercise leadership and influence" with management as well as the "rank and file employees," he says.

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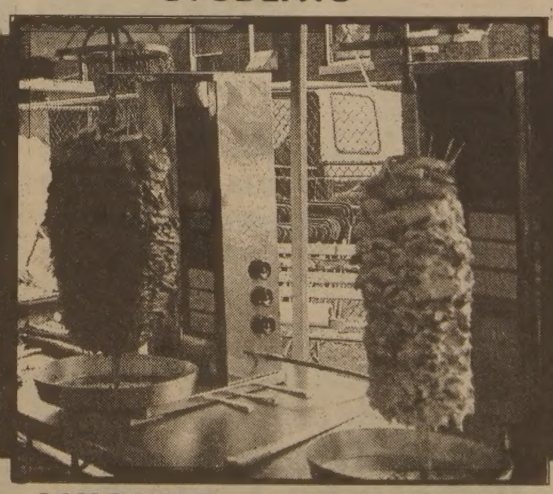
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Up Close

Anyone can

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

She says if she can do it, anyone can.

Debra Grobb not only teaches for Literacy and Basic Skills (LBS) but she is a successful graduate of the program.

LBS is a program designed to help adults achieve success in the workplace or higher education through upgrading in English, math and computers.

Grobb says she feels a connection with the students she now teaches because of her past experience in the program.

"I do have a connection with them and I do understand how they feel when they come to the program.

I can put them at ease and relate past experiences that I had."

After completing her training in the LBS program, she says she had the full support of program staff when she decided to further her education, which now includes a bachelor of arts from Brock University, a master's degree in science and education from Canisius College in New York, and an Ontario Teacher's Certificate.

"If I had any questions concerning any of the essays I was doing (in university), I always had their support, no matter what."

Therefore, she says her motivation in becoming involved with LBS was to give back to the program.

"The program gave me a goal I could look at and I was backed up, no matter what."

The same concerns which plague students now, Grobb says, are the same as her concerns when she attended the college.

"The hardest thing for me was just wondering if I would be respected and I hoped that I would have a teacher that wouldn't treat me the same way I was treated in high school."

Chance to experience something new

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

He wanted a change and a chance to experience something new. He came to teach at Niagara College. Thirty years later, the adventure continues.

Standing outside his windowless office tucked away in the bowels of Lundy Wing at the Welland campus, I wait as Bill Munroe talks with a student.

I get the impression, from overheard bits of conversation, Munroe is readily available for his students. This attribute comes as no surprise considering his background and experience here.

Munroe, of Welland, is an instructor in the math division and serves on the board of governors as faculty governor.

Munroe teaches computer literacy to a variety of programs across the college depending on the academic term. This fall term, he said he's teaching the course to Human Relations, Early Childhood Education and General Arts and Science program students.

However, Munroe didn't start as a computer teacher. He has his bachelor of arts degree in geography and English from the University of Waterloo, and his masters of education in instructional techniques from the State University of New York at Buffalo. In addition, he has an Ontario teaching certificate, which he's maintained throughout his years here.

Munroe started at Niagara after a five-year stint as a teacher at Eastdale Secondary School in Welland.

He left the secondary school system because he was attracted by the "dynamics" of the college, he said.

"The high school was a proven thing, an established thing, but the college was a new thing — it was wide open."

He adds all kinds of things were going on within the college system and people at the time weren't sure if community colleges would survive.

Munroe said he liked the idea of being involved with the development from the ground up.

This willingness to explore new ideas and advance his knowledge in new areas sums up Munroe's philosophy on his career and his life at the college.

Since coming to Niagara in 1968, Munroe has had the opportunity to serve in various positions.

He began as an instructor teaching humanities in the General Education program, as well as teaching geography to the Public Administration program, earth sciences to Early Childhood Education program and some general electives.

He has also been co-ordinator of the Human Relations program. Munroe explains he got into that via his English background in communications.

Seminar upgrades enabled his move to the math division. This, he said, developed his background in computers leading to a career path change.

"That's the great thing about the college . . . the college has allowed me to change, and they've supported me.

"Today, I'm teaching something brand new after 30 years of being here," said Munroe, adding it was just a desire to do it that brought him here.

Apart from his career changes as a teacher, Munroe has held positions within the college system itself. He said he spent one year as budget co-ordinator when he was seconded to the treasurer's department. He had no teaching duties during this time.

In addition, he's been a professional development officer and a support person for a number of years.

Munroe said he has "been everywhere" and is "having a good time."

As the elected faculty representative to the board, Munroe has a three-year mandate, after which he may run again if he so wishes.

Munroe replaces Gary Webb, the previous faculty governor.

Being on the board has offered Munroe an interesting insight to the dynamics of the college, he said.

It's given him a feeling for the scope and size of the college in what he calls a "more global view" of its role in the community.

College has allowed Munroe to change

"It gives me a different perspective that I can bring to work."

He's interested in how the college can serve and lead in the development of the region.

Community accessibility to the college is one area, Munroe said, he's particularly interested in.

"I want to get out and say that Niagara College is for people to use as a resource in the peninsula."

Actively involved in what the college is doing externally, Munroe is also looking to improve his performance on the inside.

He's developed an effective system, dubbed the "paperless office." He adds he's reducing the amount of paper he generates by utilizing computers. He gives the example of having 28 students in one of his classes. If he has 28 students show up to an exam, for which he has run off 32 copies, then he'd have wasted that much extra paper.

By having his students do the exam on a computer disk he's avoiding this waste.

"(I) just do exactly what I need so there is no more paper generated than necessary."

Munroe has also adopted, as a good craftsman, what he calls a "tool kit" approach to teaching.

"I have honed my craft quite well over the years," said Munroe.

"When I open my toolbox I have all kinds of devices tnat help me reach my objectives." These might be lectures, seminars, overheads or web pages.

"I'm developing my toolbox, so when I'm given an assignment (a class) then I have a complete, effective, clean, organized, detailed toolbox to deliver my products, to develop my product or to present my material."

Away from the college, Munroe said hobbies help him relax. He describes himself as a quality chef and enjoys cooking Chinese and French cuisine dishes.

Before he settled on cooking, he said he delved into photography and woodworking, but adds you can only take so many pictures and build so many knick knack shelves before people start getting tired of them.

However, with cooking, he said, "If it goes well they'll come back for seconds."

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Meet and Greet

Business card exchange good networking

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

ST. CATHARINES — Networking.

That was the name of the game for the 400 business people who came to exchange business cards and make new business contacts at the Royal Bank Business Card Exchange sponsored by the Royal Bank, the St. Catharines Standard and Verge, Stewart Insurance Brokers in conjunction with Small Business Club Niagara Inc. and Niagara College.

Held at Embassy Suites in St. Catharines on Nov. 18, this was the first business card exchange of its kind in St. Catharines.

Steve Stunt, director of Small Business Club Niagara Inc. and ε business consultant with Niagara College's Innovation Centre, said the "whole concept is getting as many business people in a room as is feasible for the purpose of meeting and making new business contacts."

Rosemary Auld, Niagara manager for small business for the Royal Bank, said Stunt had approached her after he had been to a three-day business card exchange that the Royal Bank was involved with in Toronto to see if the Royal Bank would be interested in sponsoring a similar event here.

"I think the thing that struck so many people about it was the simplicity of it," said Don Davidson, manager of the Royal Bank Niagara Business Banking Centre in St. Catharines. "It is almost too simple, and the reality is many, many people don't know how to find a way to meet other business people who may have an interest in their product,"

"It's good for the region," said Auld. "There is so much happening in the region, and I don't think people realize it until you come out to something like this and you see the small businesses and entrepreneurs together."

There is "such variety," said Alieth Allen, owner of Visiting Angels, a bonded 24-hour service that provides in-hotel nursing care for travellers, travelling companions and emergency child-care services.

'. . . many people don't know how to find a way to meet other business people . . .'

—Don Davidson

Carole Bennett agrees. "Things that I would never have thought about, somebody has already picked up on. That's great."

Bennett is a self-employed meeting and events planner. She said by coming here tonight and networking she found somebody who will create a Web page on the Internet for her business Classic Events, as well as someone who will write her brochure "so that it catches the eye when I pass it out, and makes (clients) want to read it."

Frank Stewart, vice-president of Verge, Stewart Insurance Brokers, said, "It's not just about promoting your wares. I think a lot of people are just trying to be better acquainted with their community."

For post-graduate public relations students in Stunt's marketing class at the college, it provided hands-on opportunities to get involved with the planning and staging of a community event.

Andrea Malone, 25, of Aurora, said Stunt gave different jobs to different people. "I put together a media list with fax numbers and contacts. Someone else did a media release and someone else did a story for a business networking trade newsletter."

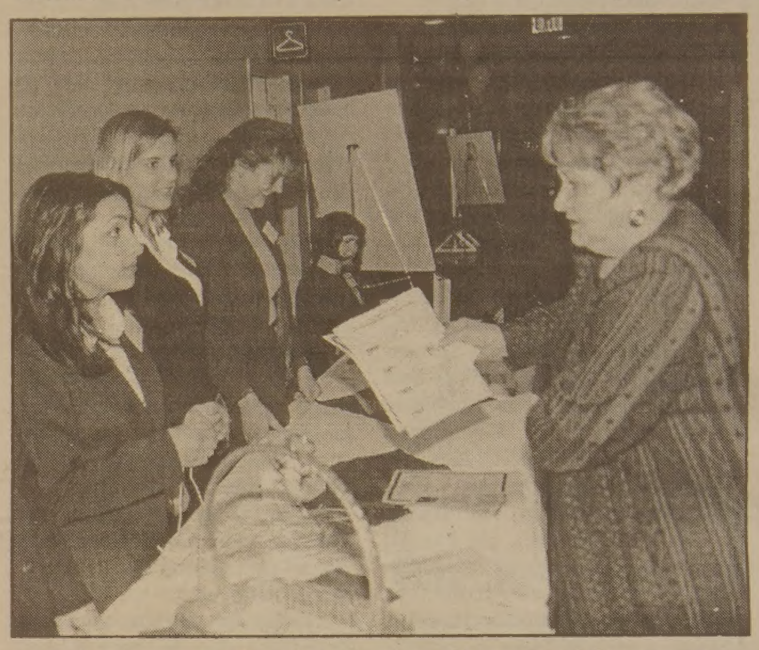
Public relations students also helped set up the sponsor's displays and were in charge of registering people as they came in. They were also there to mingle with the crowd.

Debbie Wiebe, community relations co-ordinator with the St. Catharines *Standard*, said she was approached by a Niagara College graduate of the Public Relations (Post-Graduate) program at the evening's event who wanted to gain more experience in organizing special events.

"She can come out to some of the special events that I do and she can gain practical experience. It will look good on her resume, so it's helping me, helping her."

"Networking is what it is all about. That's how you make your contacts, that's how you make your connections," said Bennett.

Auld, Davidson and Stunt said they hope to make this an annual event.



Linda Thomas of the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce is greeted at the door of the Royal Bank Business Card Exchange by Niagara College public relations students Carm Ciardullo, 23, of Hamilton, Charlotte Hodgson, 26, of Niagara Falls, and Kelly Anderson, 21, of Welland.
Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Word on Campus

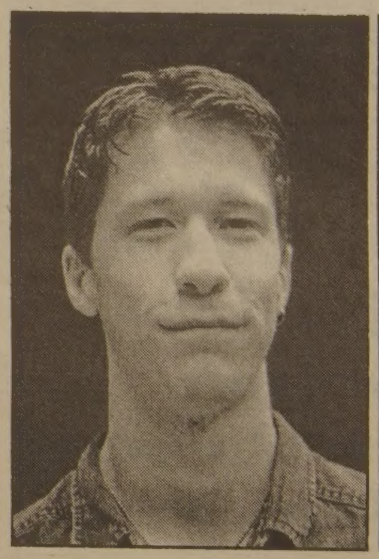
What is your New Year's resolution?

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

Sarah Young, 23, of Port Colborne, a first-year Pharmacy Assistant student, says, "to quit smoking."

Trevor Fulche, 22, of St. Catharines, a second-year Computer Programmer/Analyst student, says, "to show up for every one of my classes."

Jaime Hunt, 18, of Thorold, a first-year Child and Youth Worker student, says, "to save money."



Cole Hayes, 19, of Niagara Falls, a second-year Computer Programmer/Analyst student, says, "to go to the gym more often."

Deanna Smuk, 20, of Simcoe, a first-year Child Youth Worker student, says, "to be more laid back."

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SPECIAL HOLIDAY SECTION

Happy Holidays
from the staff and
students in the
Journalism-Print program

Cut down Christmas tree of your choice

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

RIDGEVILLE — Jim Smith, 54, of R.R. 1, Ridgeville, has had a fascination with trees since he was a young boy.

"When I was nine years old I would plant trees all over the place. I'd picture what they would look like."

Smith, a materials engineer for John Deere and owner of Smiths' Cut Your Own Christmas Trees, owns 50 acres of land on Orchard Hill Road in the old community of St. John's. He bought the land when he was 18.

Most of it is rolling hills and ravine property forested in wild cherry, pine and black walnut, and is home to countless deer, red fox, coyotes and wild turkeys.

Ten acres is planted in Christmas trees — Colorado blue spruce, white spruce, Norway spruce, Austrian pine, Scotch pine, white pine and balsam fir. His home sits on a cleared hilltop, the lawn extending the easy distance to the start of the Christmas trees.

Since 1962, Smith says he has provided hot cider and cookies, from the last weekend of November and all weekends leading to Christmas Day, out of his home's garage to the "car loads" of people who come with their saws, toboggans and toddlers in search of the perfect Christmas tree.

"Beauty is in the eye of the beholder," says Smith when it comes to choosing a Christmas tree. Some people prefer trees with a layered look so ornaments can be hung inside the tree. Others like thick pine, preferring to hang their ornaments on the outside of the tree.

"You never know what you like until you get it home and live with it for a while."

He says the Colorado blue spruce are the "most sought after." Of the different tree varieties available, the Colorado tends to keep its needles longer.

Mary Smith, Jim's wife and partner in the business, says, "I had one person tell me she kept hers until Easter. She hung all her Easter eggs on it."

He says the Austrian pine tend to keep their needles as well but trap a lot of needles in their branches. He advises people to get a tree whose needles have fallen off. It's no indication the tree is dry, he says, it just makes the tree look as if it is, especially when it's moved inside the house and the needles fall.

Scotch pine and white pine keep their needles, but the white pine is "something you have to develop a taste for," he says.

The white spruce and the Norway spruce can lose their needles early but a lot of it depends on the weather, says Smith.

"I think if you cut them on a relatively mild day earlier in the season and put them in water, they are more likely to last than if you cut them late on a bitterly cold day when the moisture goes out of the tree and back into the roots again."

He says the biggest trick to making your tree last is to never let the tree run out of water. "When a tree runs out of water, it tries to heal the wound off, which is the cut, so sap forms across there and that prevents water from going in."

To prevent a surprise, Smith says to "watch out for crooked trunks. . . . You may have a crooked trunk and not realize it until you get it home and stand it up."

Smith says "some huge trees go out of here" the first weekend he's open. "There'll be trees on top of the car with branches that will come down almost over the windshield and back so far, they'll be dragging on the ground."

Early in the season with lots of trees to choose from, Smith says people will spend hours "wandering back and forth." As the season gets busier, Smith says people will "just spend a few minutes because they are afraid someone else will get their tree."

Mary says parents bring their children to see where the trees grow. As well, a lot of families who make a trip to the farm a yearly outing for their children will bring along the neighbour's children so they can have the experience.

"Last year we had our youngest customer," said Mary. "Two days old. The family stopped over on their way home from the hospital."

She adds, "We have people (who came) through as kids in strollers who are now bringing their own kids in strollers."

Sometimes, Smith says, people will "traditionally buy their tree on the same day every year," or they will "arrange to meet friends here at a certain time and make a day of it."

"Often times you see people running into friends they haven't seen since last year at the same time, and they have a good chat."

Smith says seeing people having a good time is the best part of the "whole thing . . . . People are out with the right spirit and the right frame of mind. It certainly is a positive experience."

Smith says he usually sells about 300 trees in a season. His only advertisements are a sign at the entrance of Orchard Hill Road off Hollow Road, and word of mouth. He has sold sweatshirts and baseball hats with a designed logo advertising his business in the past. This year he has printed business cards for the first time.

He says he charges a set fee of $25 per tree, so people can "cut as small as they want or as large as they want." Few people complain about the price or the quality, he says.

To get to Smiths' Christmas Trees from Fonthill, go north on Pelham Street five kilometres to Orchard Hill Road. He is open Friday afternoons to dark and Saturday and Sunday from 9 a.m. to dark from now to Christmas.

Write Santa

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Santa's on his way, and you can write to him.

Children can write to Santa, and Canada Post will answer their letters.

Canada Post has been promoting its Santa Program for the last 15 years.

All the letters it receives get answered personally by Canada Post employees and retirees.

Tom Creech, of London, Ont., communications officer for Canada Post, said there are about 10,000 to 13,000 "deputized elves" answering the letters.

He said Canada Post receives "just over one million letters a year" from around the world in 23 different languages including Braille.

"We find it a wonderful way to encourage literacy," said Creech, adding the program was started in hopes of promoting literacy in children.

He said he feels the program brings joy to the children, adding when they open the letters he thinks "it's a magical moment for the children."

Children can send their letters along with their return addresses to Santa at Santa Claus, North Pole HO HO HO, Canada.

Creech said it should take about two to three weeks for a reply.

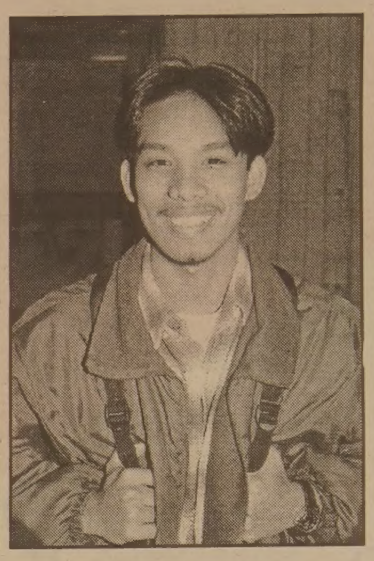
Happy Holidays

Word on Campus

How is Christmas celebrated in your country?

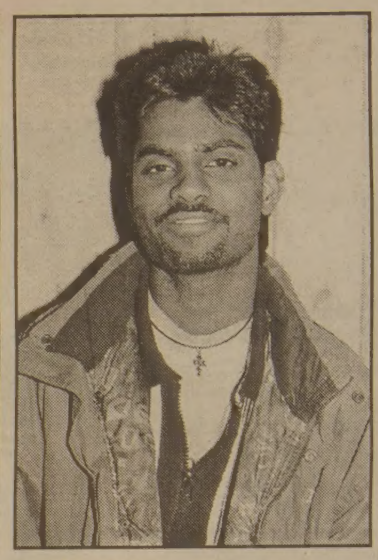
By RACHEL CZIFRA
Staff Writer

"At the Christmas party we eat chicken and champagne. Christmas cake is a necessity," said **Kayo Ito**, 28, of Japan.



"I lived in an American colony. The way Americans celebrate Christmas is the way we celebrate," said **Arcadio Godoy**, 21, of the Philippines.

"Dec. 6 is St. Nick's Day. That's the day he brings you gifts or a lump of coal depending on if you're good or bad. Christmas is mainly religious, not as commercial as it is here," said Helen Kovacs, 58, who continued the traditions of her Hungarian husband.



"We celebrate New Year's, not Christmas, (and) not in January, in April. They (the women) buy new dresses," said **Pira Nadesu**, 20, of Sri Lanka.

"When I was a small child, my friend's parents pretended they were Santa Claus," said **Tomoke Yoshino**, 19, of Japan.

A different meaning to their holiday season

By STACEY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

Not all the world celebrates Christmas.

Various religions mark different holidays. Jewish people celebrate Hanukkah.

Many believe Hanukkah, or Chanukah (it's spelled many different ways because these words are translations of the Hebrew word), is the Jewish version of Christmas. This isn't true.

Hanukkah is celebrated at the same time of year as Christmas, but it commemorates the spiritual and physical victory of the Jewish against the Greeks some 2,000 years ago.

This year, Hanukkah begins on Sunday, Dec. 13, and ends on Monday, Dec. 21.

Hanukkah is also known as the Festival of Lights.

It's celebrated worldwide, as a family-centered event in homes, but can also be celebrated in Jewish community centers, temples and synagogues.

Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights starting on the 25th day of the month of the Jewish/Hebrew calendar.

Each night, candles or jars of oil are placed in the menorah, or special candelabra, that holds nine candles.

The Shamash, or servant candle, is used to light the other candles and sits higher in the menorah.

Each night another candle is added, from right to left, and lit.

Prayers are recited in Hebrew before each candle is lit. English can be spoken by those who can't speak Hebrew.

Jews burn eight candles because after seven years of fighting, a small group of Jewish fighters, led by the priestly Hasmoneon family from Modin, overcame the strong Syrian armies.

On their way back to Jerusalem, they found their Holy Temple has been ravished by the Syrian armies.

The Jews cleaned the temple but found only one jar of pure and sacred olive oil when they went to light the Holy Light.

Although the jar had enough oil for one day, it burned for eight days. According to Jewish Oral Law, it was said to be a miracle.

Throughout Hanukkah, children play many games. There is also a toy called the dreidel, which is a four-sided top.

Throughout Hanukkah, gifts are exchanged and given to children.

The food served during Hanukkah consists of potato pancakes fried in oil and other fried foods. This is to commemorate the oil jar that burned for eight days.

Happy Holidays, not Merry Christmas

Druids of ancient Britain used mistletoe as protection against demons, spells and other evils

By MELINDA JOHNSTON
Staff Writer

They believe in Jesus Christ but refuse to celebrate Christmas.

One of many questions Jehovah's Witnesses are asked is why.

Nowhere in the Bible is Dec. 25 noted as Jesus's birthday. The Bible doesn't specify either the day or the month of Christ's birth, but a variety of dates have been suggested.

In the third century, one group of Egyptian theologians placed it on May 20, while others favored earlier dates, such as March 28, April 2, or April 19.

So why Dec. 25? *The New Encyclopedia Britannica* says, "Most probably the reason is that early Christians wished the date to coincide with the pagan Roman festival marking the 'birthday of unconquered sun.'"

"Jehovah's Witnesses strictly adhere to the teachings of the Bible," says Karen Johnston, a lifelong Jehovah's Witness.

Everything to do with Christmas stems from pagan worship. Tree worship, common among the pagan Europeans, survived after their conversion to Christianity. It's shown in the Scandinavian customs of decorating the house and barn with evergreens at the New Year to scare away the devil and of setting up a tree for the birds during Christmastime.

The wreaths we see and decorate are deeply rooted in pagan worship. Ancient Romans used holly branches to adorn temples during Saturnalia, a seven-day mid-winter festival devoted to Saturn, the god of agriculture. This particular festival was noted for its unrestrained revelry and licentiousness.

What about kissing under the mistletoe? Romantic? It's a throw back from the Middle Ages. The Druids of ancient Britain believed mistletoe held magical powers so they it was used it as protection against demons, spells and other evils.

"I love the lights and don't get terribly offended when people wish me Merry Christmas," says Johnston. "I would rather people just say Happy Holidays."

"I have never been able to reconcile myself to the gaieties of the Christmas season. They have appeared to me to be so inconsistent with the life and teaching of Jesus," Mahatma K. Gandhi.

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Happy Holidays

She'll be home for Christmas

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

I'll be home for Christmas.

Angelika Veitleder, 28, of Niagara College's English as a Second Language (ESL) program, said she's going back to Germany for Christmas.

"I'm leaving Dec. 19, for three weeks."

Veitleder said, "It's not that expensive to go home." She's paying $900 for a round-trip flight.

She said on Dec. 6, Santa Claus visits and leaves nuts and clementines. Then on Dec. 25, Kris Child, (Santa Claus to Canadians), brings presents for them.

"Everybody gives presents to everybody else," she said, adding "we usually give to the people we like the best."

She said she's "excited" to go home, celebrate Christmas with her family and see what presents everyone has bought for her.

Veitleder said she can't wait to see her family and friends.

Christmas in Germany isn't much different from a Canadian Christmas except here there are more decorations on the houses.

"In Canada, every house is colourful, but in Germany there are only white lights on houses."

She said there isn't much to look at in Germany when everything has white lights.

"I (like to) drive around at night just to look at the colourful lights."

She lives in St. Catharines, in an apartment, and said she has decorated her place "a little bit."

Veitleder said there is already snow in Germany, but by the time Christmas comes most of it will be melted.

"I'll be spending Christmas with my family and celebrating New Year's with my friends." So far, she doesn't have plans for the Jan. 1 celebration.

Veitleder came to Canada in May and returned home once, at the end of June, for three weeks.

Baher Ahmed Mustafa, of Jordan, isn't as fortunate as Veitleder.

He said he's not returning home for Christmas because he's "only been here for two months."

The 19-year-old Level 2 ESL student said he'll "miss being at home for Christmas."

In Jordan, he said, "some people celebrate it, and some people don't because the country has two religions — Muslim and Christian."

Mustafa said his family celebrates the holiday.

"Christmas is beautiful. It is celebrated more in Canada than in my country."

He said his favourite part is going out with his friends and dancing.

Mustafa, who lives with a host family in Welland, said they have already decorated for the holidays.

Although Mustafa won't be at home, he'll get the opportunity to experience his first Canadian Christmas.

Christmas can be inexpensive

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

Christmas is almost here, and buying gifts shouldn't be an bank account breaking experience.

Being a student usually means you're less than financially stable. The last thing on your mind is buying something for someone else — then along comes Christmas. You have two options. You can either be a Scrooge and buy nothing, or you can buy reasonably priced gifts.

Brothers and sisters are probably the easiest to buy for. Usually you can get away with anything in the $10 to $20 range.

A good idea is a CD. With virtually thousands to choose from, and most new releases starting at around $14.99, you can't go wrong. Just in time for Christmas are **Pearl Jam's Live on Two Legs, South Park Chef Aid**, as well as many others.

Dad tends to be a bit of a problem since you can only give the guy so many ties and bottles of Old Spice before it begins to seem predictable, so try a change.

One original idea is to give a personalized calendar. Each month features a picture of you or other members of your family. These calendars cost $30 and one thing's sure — you won't have to worry about someone else getting him the same thing. The calendars can be produced at almost any photo shop, such as Black's.

Mom is also a bit of a challenge, but with a little thought, and not a lot of money, you can let her have a special Christmas too.

Scented candles are a very trendy thing these days, and one product that may grab your attention is Candy Candles. They're short, fat and look like they're coated in sugar. They almost look like big jujubes. They come in a wide variety of scents including candy cane for Christmas. Cost is $7 each or three for $20. These can be found at a small stand inside the Pen Centre in St.Catharines.

You don't have to spend tons of money to give someone a nice gift for Christmas. You just have to get out there, look and be a little creative.

Trees unlikely to ignite

Tests revealed suspicious fires

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

Just how safe is having a cut Christmas tree in your home?

A report out of St. Paul, Minn., by certified forensic investigators, said the accidental ignition of a Christmas tree is "very unlikely." The report was published in the *Minnesota Christmas Tree Growers News, April 1998.*

Mark Bishop and Denise De Mars decided to conduct tests on trees after Minnesota fire investigators became "suspicious of a man who claimed that a shorted wire on his Christmas tree lights ignited the tree and caused extensive damage to his home" during the 1996 Christmas season. When the investigation heated up, the individual hot-footed it out of the state.

The report says Bishop and De Mars cut trees in accordance with tree cutting charts provided by the Minnesota Christmas Tree Grower's Association.

Pines were cut about six weeks before being set up in indoor stands. Spruces and firs were cut and baled about two weeks before being set up while a selection of trees were cut fresh and set up immediately in a stand full of water. The report also says they found two unsold Christmas trees that had been cut seven months prior to conducting their tests.

All trunk bottoms were re-cut and the trees were placed in a tree stand and "kept in water for two weeks in an apartment kept at a constant temperature of 17 Celsius," the report said.

The trees were then moved to the St. Paul Fire Department burn tower where the tests were conducted.

The report said "all sources of ignition were chosen to simulate an accidental fire in an ordinary house."

In the first test, the report said a wooden match was held to needles on a branch for up to eight seconds. That was followed by holding a flame from a butane barbecue lighter for eight seconds, gradually increasing the time to 30 seconds.

Next came a "sustained electric arc" held to the tree for eight seconds. For their final test they wrapped an overheated wire around the branches until the wire melted, and the current was interrupted.

In all cases none of the trees could sustain a flame. The report said, "Often a few needles would begin to burn, but once the flame source was removed, the needles self-extinguished within a second or two."

Boosted by these results, the report said the testers then used a propane blowtorch on a tree for 2 1/2 minutes. Similarly, once the ignition source was removed, the tree self-extinguished within five seconds. Stuffing and lighting four sheets of newspaper in the inside of the tree resulted in the tree burning for 1 1/2 minutes before self-extinguishing.

The report concluded "it is very unlikely that an ordinary Christmas tree will ignite from an accidental source where the tree itself is the initial fuel."

However, the report also said fires could have different results if the fire is started elsewhere in the room, or in the paper and wrappings under the tree.

Home-made gifts appreciated

By MELINDA SPURVEY
Staff Writer

Christmas can cause a heavy hit on your bank account. This year, you can give and still be debt free.

Here are a few tips.

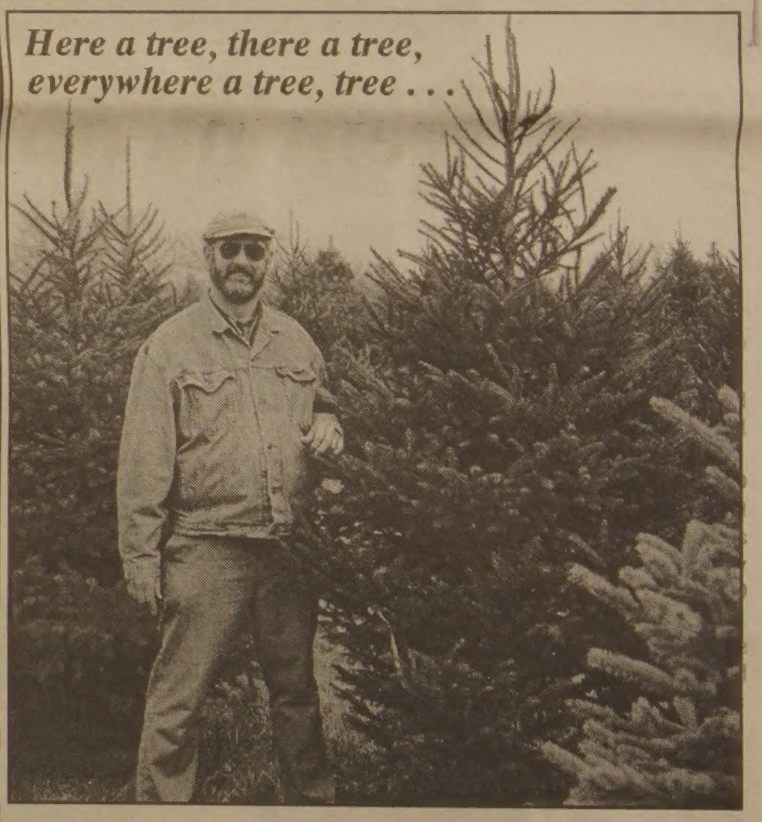
Look in the numerous retail flyers found bulging out of your mailboxes and daily newspapers. If you have the time to go through them, you can tell what stores have the lowest prices on selected items.

How about giving a donation to one of many charities in the names of your friends and family? It's always nice to give to those who are less fortunate.

Take a look in books and magazines for gift ideas that can be made in the comfort of your own home. People will appreciate a gift more if they know you took the time and effort to make it.

Now you can stay clear of those busy shopping malls and when the true meaning of Christmas is lost in the commercialism of the holidays, you can stray from the norm.

Here a tree, there a tree, everywhere a tree, tree . . .



Jim Smith stands tall amid his 10-acre lot of Christmas trees. See story Page 17.

Photo by Rosemary Bartlett

Family theme featured in parade

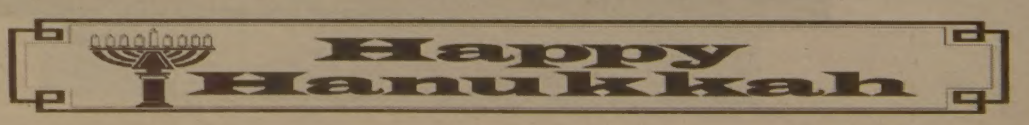
By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — Put on those winter mittens, grab your friends, your spouse and your families and head on down to Niagara-on-the-Lake on Dec. 12.

Santa Claus is coming to town for the town's annual Christmas parade and the Niagara College parade float is going to be there with him.

The Niagara College Family is the theme this year, said Liz Palmieri, development associate for the Niagara College Foundation. Students, faculty, administration and staff members will be on the float with their children, said Palmieri.

The parade starts at 11 a.m. It starts on King Street at the Centre Street intersection, turns right on Castlereagh Street, turns left on Wellington Street, left on Byron Street, and winds its way over to Queen Street to finish at King and Johnson streets.



Happy Holiday

Photol by
Tyler Robinlon
Tiffany Herron
and
Aaron Beaudoin

Happy Holidays

Every Christmas has unique message

By LAZARUS NATHANE
Staff Writer

Whenever Christmas approaches, I'm always reminded of its true meaning and marvel how time flies by.

It seems like yesterday when the last Christmas was celebrated and, before we know it, another one is here.

Having said that, I'm not implying discontentment because, frankly, I'm always looking forward to this time of the year.

It's a time of hope and reflection.

Besides, the joy and camaraderie made possible by Christmas can't be compared.

What an invaluable experience it is to sit around the table with one's family and friends. Those are the two most important riches in one's life.

Another is to sit back at home and enjoy simple pleasures, such as listening to Christmas music to your heart's content.

Instead of delving into that, I'd rather indicate I feel privileged to be one of those who would say Happy Birthday, Jesus Christ!

The first thing coming to mind whenever I hear His name is the fact He's done a good job.

Some of the Man's words shall stand the test of time.

To celebrate His birthday in a special way would be but a small token of gratitude.

Christ's birth rocked the world, yet only the shepherds and some barnyard animals were there to welcome Him.

During His time on earth He endured humiliation, pain and suffering as no others have.

Still, He braved the cross to make a statement and to demonstrate the love of God toward mankind.

So, how do you thank a person

who has surrendered His life so you can keep yours?

The question reminds me of a true story from 19th-century England.

An elderly woman went to the house of a well-known lawyer and offered him a dozen eggs because he had saved her son from the gallows.

She was very thankful for the life-saving work he had done but didn't have anything with which to pay him.

To the lady's joy and surprise, the barrister accepted the eggs as a complete form of payment!

There is a lesson for us in that story. The analogy could be God accepts little from us in return for the abundance He has given.

During this season as we're doing endless shopping, nonstop baking and signing a million cards, it's important to spare enough time to think about the baby in the manger.

Please don't let Him be stampeded by your to-do list or by your other priorities.

I'm sure you know Christ's birth rocked the world, yet only the shepherds and some barnyard animals were there to welcome Him.

One wonders, sometimes, where were the rest of the people?

They were probably busy over their stoves, putting their children to bed and lighting the fire to challenge the evening's chill.

Indispensable as those chores might have been, I don't think they exceeded the importance of helping to deliver the child who came to deliver you.

Imagine Joseph and Mary, in the cold of the night, gazing into your candlelit dining room before treading slowly to the stable to deliver the child there.

The challenge in such a situation would be to think about what lasts and also about Mary's exhaustion after they've been to different places without finding accommodation.

I'm talking, of course, to those who believe in Jesus Christ and the purpose of His birth.

To those who don't, well, I find solace in knowing the Word of God has survived many unbelieving generations.

You're neither the first nor the last.

Isn't it strange, though, some people partake in a joyous celebration brought about by someone they don't believe in? That is a paradox.

Nevertheless, Jesus's birth isn't about putting on Christmas but about daring to "put on" Him.

That's where magic ends and faith begins.

In the true spirit of those who have life made possible by His grace, have a Merry Christmas and a happy, prosperous New Year.

Childhood memories fondly recalled

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

As I've grown older, Christmas isn't as much fun as it once was.

When I was younger I could hardly wait till the beginning of December. I would count down the days until Santa Claus would make his yearly visit.

It could never come soon enough.

With a Christmas tree set up and gifts tucked under, it was just a big tease because you knew you couldn't open those presents till Dec. 25.

No matter how much I asked, I still wasn't allowed.

Christmas just isn't the way it used to be.

Remember being little and up before the sun, just to rush to the tree before anyone else, to be the first to see what Santa brought? Today, someone has to wake me up and even then I'm complaining, "Can't I slept just a little longer?"

As I've gotten older the novelty of opening presents has passed. I would much rather have them given to me unwrapped and throughout the year, rather than all at once.

Christmas has changed.

When I was young, visits to Santa were fun and exciting. Christmas was the best time of the year. When else did you get to be up before the crack of dawn, receive presents from Santa, from your parents, friends and relatives?

This is the most anticipated time of the year for children, but as I've gotten older the joy of Christmas has passed.

Why can't we go back to our childhood, when Christmas was an overwhelming experience, where the presents we received were the greatest and whatever we made for someone was an ideal gift?

Christmas used to be one of my favourite holidays. Now it's just another day.

I'm no longer the little child who has to sneak a peak at what I got before Christmas, or wake up a million times in the middle of Christmas Eve night just to see what was in my Christmas stocking, or for that matter everyone else's.

Times have changed.

Christmas means more than just presents. I know many people are so caught up in what they receive, that they tend to forget that there is more to Christmas holidays than gifts.

Spending the holidays with people you love and care for should be the greatest present of all.

Meaning of Christmas often forgotten

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

What is the meaning of Christmas anyway?

If you've been shopping at the mall around Christmas — and I'm sure all of you have — then you know it as a time of year for being stressed and fighting hordes of wild shoppers dashing about the stores like a group of mad monkeys charging a sugar-coated banana tree.

Somewhere in the past 2,000 years we seem to have forgotten what Christmas is and where it gets its roots.

Perhaps it's the multi-million dollar advertising flooding our children's minds with images of a furry little stuffed animal that passes gas that, of course, they've just got to have, even though a week later they'll forget it exists.

Nonetheless, parents and grandparents go into a frenzy. On occasion they'll even re-enact a scene reminiscent of our ancient ancestors beating each other about their heads with clubs over the last scrap of meat, only now it's more likely to be a shopping bag instead of a club.

Yes, this may be a little over-exaggerated but you know what I mean.

Christmas didn't originate in the Sears catalogue. In fact, it originated in another widely distributed book — the Bible.

I doubt the three Wise Men placed a catalogue order for frankincense and myrrh before going to see the baby Jesus.

Christmas is supposed to be a time to gather and celebrate the good things that came out of the birth of that one man 2,000 years ago.

It's a time to reflect on why we are here and how lucky we are to live in a country that still has some semblance of moral values.

Next edition of the
NIAGARA NEWS
January 22, 1999. To advertise
call Ron at 735-2211 Ext. 7748

Church group welcomes you

A free Christmas dinner will be provided for those alone on Friday, Dec. 25, at Faith Tabernacle, 380 South Pelham Rd., in Welland, at 5 p.m.

This will be Faith Tabernacle's second annual Christmas dinner for the needy and lonely. Doors open at 4 p.m. with dinner served an hour later.

Church members will prepare a free turkey dinner for those who have no place to go to that day, said Erika Church, co-ordinator of the church program and a professor at Niagara College in Welland.

The evening is staffed by members of Faith Tabernacle. The dinner is open to all those in the community. However, residents are asked to contact the church office at 735-6811 by Dec. 14 to reserve a place for dinner. Transportation is available if needed.

Happy Holidays

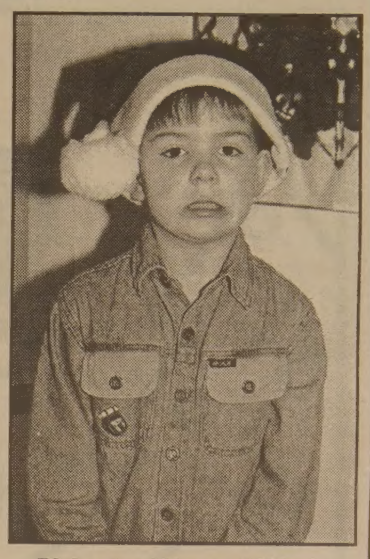
What do you do for Christmas? What is on your list to Santa?

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

Tyler, 4, said he's hoping Santa will bring him a castle, "a great big one."

Tyler said he has a "big family" but still finds time to "put presents under the tree for my brother."

"Everybody's happy at Christmas."



Blake, 5, said he would like blue monster trucks from Santa this year.

Most children prefer toys to clothing but Blake said he could "be happy with a shirt."

He said he has a big family so during Christmas his job is to "hang my stockings up," so Santa Claus can fill them.

William, 4, said Spiderman is his top choice on his list this year.

He said he wants the one that "sticks to the wall."

Another choice for Santa to bring William this year is a dinosaur toy, or a race-car track.

He said Santa will bring him toys as long as he leaves out "a note and carrots for the reindeer."

Dakota, 5, would like Santa to bring him a race-car track with three remote controls to share with his friends Eddie and Collin.

"I leave something for Santa," he said, "and some milk and cookies and carrots for reindeer."

"I leave 2 million and 100," he said.

Stephen, 4, said he would like drums for Christmas this year.

His second choice on his list to Santa was a "big tractor with a trailer on the back and a shovel on the front."

Asic, 5, said he isn't interested in a present for himself. He would like "a new Ferrari" for his parents to drive him to school in.

"I decorate my tree," he said, "with ornaments."

Party!

By DEBORAH RICHARDSON
Staff Writer

There's a party planned at the Niagara College Day Care Centre and the big guy in the red suit is scheduled to attend.

A Christmas party takes place today.

The Walter Larson Seven Band, from the Niagara area, is scheduled to play around 2:30 p.m. as the entertainment for the party.

President Dan Patterson, Sandy Fox, manager ancillary services, and Pat Eversden, day care manager, will all be giving greetings from the college and best wishes for the holiday season.

The preschool children will be performing a short dance for parents and teachers, and the Kindergarten class will put on a performance to tell all "What Christmas Means To Me."

Santa, himself, has planned to attend to add a little more cheer to the centre and take in any remaining letters the children might have.

Eversden said "lots of door prizes will be given away."

The centre has collected donations from local franchisers, such as Shopper's Drug Mart, Artful Cookie, Heather Child Care, SERCA.

"There are so many," she said. "The merchants in Welland have been so supportive."

Caught in the act

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

'Twas the night before Christmas and everyone was in bed.
Billie and Bobby, each snuggled up in a ball
while Maggie and Missy were each asleep by the wall.
All was quiet,
and then there was a loud noise.
Billie jumped from his bed, with Bobby at his heels
in to wake Maggie and Missy.
The girls complained and complained.
Then Bobby had an idea.
He threw back their covers and started to pull at their ears.
They were up in a flash.
Billie told of the noise he heard from below.
The four of them tiptoed down the hall.
"Be quiet as a mouse," Maggie said,
when all Bobby and Missy wanted
was to go back to bed.
As they reached the top of the stairs
what their little eyes did see
was mommy and daddy sitting down having tea.
Little Bobby wanted to see
so he leaned over the others
just a little too far.
Four little children toppled down and landed on the floor.
The noise scared daddy
and mommy spilt her drink.
Bobby, Billie, Maggie and Missy got up
and told of the noise.
Mommy explained,
"Santa was caught in the chimney;
We had to give him a boost."
No sooner had she said that
when they heard,
"Merry Christmas, Billie and Bobby.
You too, Maggie and Missy."
They all looked at each other and
then ran to the window,
only to see
a jolly man in a red suit
with his eight tiny reindeer
and sleigh full of presents.

Merry Christmas . . . Sheila, April, Rob, Dad & Moo, Teddy, Norm and Smokey too
– ***Love Jenn***
Also, ***Happy Holidays*** to all my Journalism-Print classmates!

Dear Mother
Have a Merry Christmas
– Love Gary

MERRY CHRISTMAS
Paul D, only one more computer to boot
– Advertising

Season's Greetings!
The Niagara News extends a heartfelt thank you to all those who have supported us in the past year.

Ingrid,
Happy Holiday

Merry Christmas!
to all the presentation students in the broadcasting program
– Adam Freeman

Feliz Navidad!
VD Hoven, hope Santa visits you wherever you are on Christmas.
Love Debb-The Whiner

Merry Christmas!
Mom, Dad, Dan, Cindy, Troy, Tammy, Lisa, Brooks, Jessica, Nana and Andre.
To: Tanisha, Teroy, Kayla and Mariah
SANTA COMES SOON!!
Love, Amy

Happy Holidays
to the year 2 Journalism-Print program students
– Tiffany Herron

Happy Hanukkah

MERRY CHRISTMAS
FROM all OF US AT
– CRNC

Happy Holidays

Students spread holiday cheer

Niagara area children in need are getting a helping hand during the holidays from Glendale students

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — The spirit of giving has made its way to the Learning Resource Centre (LRC).

Students at Niagara College's Glendale campus can share Christmas with children in need by picking a name off the tree in the LRC.

The tradition was adopted by the Student Administrative Council (SAC) from the old St. Catharines campus, says Christine Williams, 41, office manager of SAC.

"We decided we would donate our SAC tree to the LRC and we called Community Cares and they supplied us with (20) names."

Community Cares has an Adopt a Child program to help needy families with Christmas gifts for children.

Students are encouraged to pick a name from the tree and buy a gift

for that child, says Williams.

"A lot of students don't have a great deal of money, but if a group of them get together and put two bucks in each, they've got enough for a nice gift for a child."

Barb Murphy, 42, library technician, says the idea of the tree is "nice," but "we're almost out of names."

SAC has called Community Cares for 20 more names.

Williams says "hopefully" 40 children will receive gifts from the students.

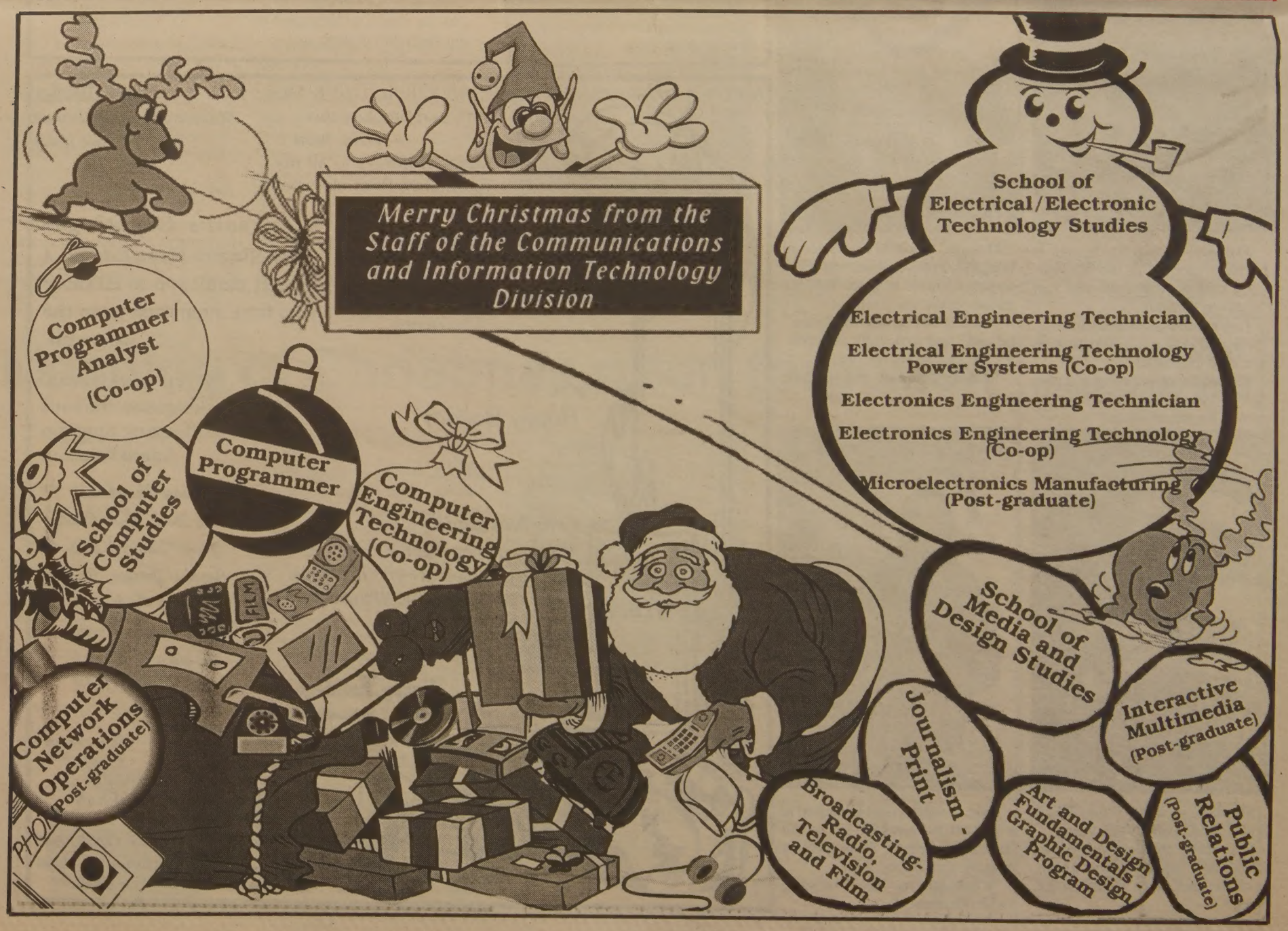
If there are names left over, "we (SAC) will purchase gifts for the remainder of the children so that nobody, of the list we've got, will be left out."

Community Cares will pick up the gifts before the college closes for the holidays and will make sure the children receive the gifts for Christmas.

She says judging by the way the names have gone quickly from the tree, the students have taken the time to help others during the holiday season.

"Most of the students here have families and they'll go home for Christmas and they'll get plenty of things. The fact that they're here and can afford an education is a wonderful thing . . . I told my own kids they have to give up a gift each because I think this is important."

She says it's "important" because "we have so much and there are kids out there who really have nothing."


Merry Christmas from the Staff of the Communications and Information Technology Division
School of Electrical/Electronic Technology Studies
Electrical Engineering Technician
Electrical Engineering Technology Power Systems (Co-op)
Electronics Engineering Technician
Electronics Engineering Technology (Co-op)
Microelectronics Manufacturing (Post-graduate)
Computer Programmer/ Analyst (Co-op)
School of Computer Studies
Computer Programmer
Computer Engineering Technology (Co-op)
School of Media and Design Studies
Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate)
Journalism - Print
Broadcasting - Radio, Television and Film
Art and Design Fundamentals - Graphic Design Program
Public Relations (Post-graduate)
Computer Network Operations (Post-graduate)

Eye On Niagara

Fund-raiser benefits acting troupe

By DAVID OLSEN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre held the Great Escape Gala, a fund-raising auction to benefit the Carousel Players, of St. Catharines, and the Niagara College Foundation's Brick Campaign.

The Carousel Players are an acting troupe who perform educational and entertaining theatre for young audiences across Ontario. The troupe first began in 1972 and celebrated their 25th anniversary during the 1997-98 season.

Chefs from throughout the Niagara region, such as Erik Peacock of the Wellington Court Restaurant in St. Catharines, and Stephan Treadwell of the Queen's Landing Inn in Niagara-on-the-Lake, were on hand to create many mouth-watering appetizers. Wineries from the region, such as Vineland Estates Winery in Vineland, Ont., showcased some of their most popular wines.

The main event of the evening was the auctioning off of 22 tour and/or dinner packages, such as a Toronto getaway that includes one night at the Royal York Hotel, plus two tickets to see Les Ballets de Monte Carlo at the Hummingbird Centre for the Performing Arts and the Ultimate Dinner Party, which includes dinner for eight with four bottles of wine, prepared and served in your house by Niagara College's Chef de Cuisine Mark Hand.

Students from the Maid of the Mist Centre were on hand to help with the preparation and serving of food.

Delicious desserts were served during the Great Escape Gala at the Maid of the Mist Centre.
Photo by David Olsen

'Twas the Night of Production

By Lee Whitehead

'Twas the night of production
And all through the newsroom,
Phyllis was on the prowl
Set to lower the boom.

Gary was talking to Ron:
"Boy, the Leafs suck!"
Aaron was constantly moving
Helping those who were stuck.

Lee needed a picture re-scanned,
He saw Jhim in his chair,
But it was Mel B, Lee was scared of.
She was giving him "the glare."

Lazarus and Robin were finished.
So were Jodi, Lisa and Dave.
Charlie ran from the school screaming
"I'm no longer Phyllis's slave!"

The Entertainment page looks good
Thanks to Sharilyn and Christine.
Ashley, Jackie and Mary work hard,
No CP errors to be seen.

Two Melindas, two Staceys
Sonja, Sanja and Noelle--
They were starting to get hungry:
"What's that we smell?"

It's Elisabeth with pizza
She's one of those good folk.
While Amy and Barb dug in,
Sean and Jenn went for a smoke.

Sara, Tiffany and Marni enter--
The three amigos are here,
But Rosemary and Leah are leaving
And Jeff wants a beer.

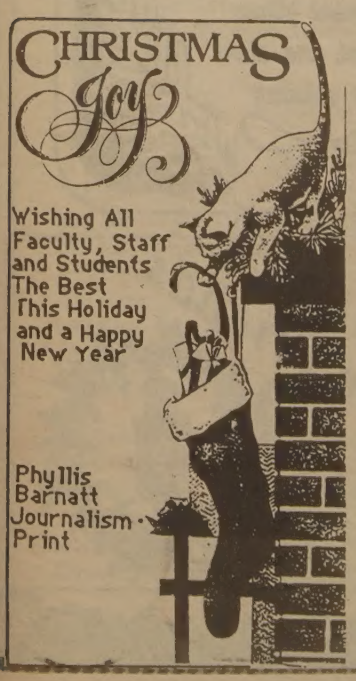
Mike came in a little late
With his wife, Julie, in tow.
Sarah was also a little late
As well as two boys named Joe.

There's a line-up at the waxer--
J.W., Tyler and Mun-Hee.
The night has gone rather smoothly
Until Mel B threatens Lee.

The phone rings, it's for Rachel
And Angela is finally done,
But Debbie isn't even close
And Larissa no longer has fun.

Mrs. Geddie has entered the room
With her infamous pink sticky pads,
But there's one person in the way--
It's Tracy with her ads.

The room is no longer noisy
But the journalism students freak,
For when they return after Christmas
This'll be done every single week.


CHRISTMAS
Joy
Wishing All Faculty, Staff and Students The Best This Holiday and a Happy New Year
Phyllis Barnatt Journalism Print

Happy Holidays

from Bonnie Rose,
Vice President, Academic
&
Pat Clay,
Administrative Assistant

We look forward to seeing you next term after a nice break!

Season's Greetings

The upcoming holiday season is eagerly anticipated by everyone. Staff can take a well deserved rest after a wonderfully exciting but tiring and demanding year. But most important, all of us can take time to reflect on our good fortune. Regardless of the many trials we personally experience, there are always those who are less fortunate. Take time to consider those people and what, in the spirit of the season, you might do for some of them.

Best wishes for a happy, safe and healthy holiday.

Martha Casson
Vice-president
Enterprise & Service Development

DRINKING -N- DRIVING WILL KILL THE CHRISTMAS SPIRIT

WHEN CELEBRATING THIS CHRISTMAS LET YOUR GUESTS KNOW YOU CARE ABOUT THEM YOU CARE ABOUT DRINKING -N- DRIVING

1. *Make available non-alcoholic beverages and non-salty foods throughout the evening.*
2. *Have someone act as bartender instead of letting your friends serve themselves.*
3. *Limit your own drinking so you can be a better judge of the condition of your guests.*
4. *Encourage designated drivers.*
5. *Close the bar an hour before your friends leave.*

DON'T BE THE ONE TO RUIN CHRISTMAS

This message has been sponsored by Niagara College and the following concerned people in our community.

The Sportsmans Edge

JOE RAPATTONI
Chelwood Plaza
Corner of Niagara Street and Thorold Rd.
(right next to the Beer Store)
Welland, Ontario L3C 1L5
(905) 788-3434

SEASON'S GREETINGS

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

from
Niagara College
Remember
Please Don't Drink & Drive
Designate a Driver!!!

Colombo
Pizzeria & Subs

Julio Cimato
20 Thorold Rd.
Welland, Ont.
L3C 3T2
905-732-2306
Come and discover authentic pizza in the "Old World Tradition"

ARTHUR'S
Deli-style Restaurant
Sandwiches
Subs & More
43 Helles Ave.
Welland

J.J. KAPPS
PASTA BAR & GRILL
NOT YOUR AVERAGE MEAT & POTATOES PLACE!
Pen Centre St. Catharines 682-6561
Want you to join them for After 9 p.m. Munchies $2.99 and less
A great place to meet and start the evening

The men, women and officers of the
10th FIELD BATTERY
56 FIELD REGIMENT
ROYAL CANADIAN ARTILLERY
wishes everyone a safe and
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Corporation of Welland
WHERE RAILS AND WATER MEET

Mayor
Jon Richard Reuter

CITY OF WELLAND
City Hall
411 East Main Street
Welland, Ontario, Canada L3B 3X4
Telephone (905) 735-1700 Fax (905) 732-1919

NIAGARA COLLEGE CANADA

Darrell Neufeld
Executive Assistant
President's Office
Ext. 7567

Welland Campus,
P.O. Box 1005, 300 Woodlawn Road, Welland, Ontario L3B 5S2
Tel. (905) 735-2211 / 374-7454 / 641-2252 / 563-3254
Fax (905) 736-6020 • Internet: dneufeld@niagarac.on.ca

Happy Holidays From Your Friends At...

C R N C

People Helping People

BRTF students make promos

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

Some local Niagara businesses have their promotional videos made in the comfort of our college.

Niagara College's third-year television students of the Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) program make corporation videos every year for businesses in the Niagara region.

Each student is assigned a business with clients, and each business comes with its own set of difficulties.

"It's like a job. We're out dealing with people and the real world but we get paid in grades," says Megan Isbester, 21, of Port Colborne.

Isbester was hired over the summer as a summer student in order to get started on the paperwork and the research for her corporate video. Her business promotion is for Hospice Niagara, a non-profit organization which provides home-based care for the terminally ill.

Isbester is the only female student in third-year television this year.

"I like television because it is more of a hurry up, shoot and edit than in film when you hurry up and wait," says Isbester.

"I like television because it is more hands on, more immediate," says Chris Webster, 20, of Owen Sound.

Webster has been working on a promotion video for the Jordan Historical Museum in Jordan, Ont., since the end of September.

"It's hard because I couldn't stage anything, so you try to get whatever you can without a chance to re-shoot it," says Webster.

Doug Smith, 34, of Brantford, is working on a promotional video for Niagara Arts and Culture, which was paid for and assigned last year. The assignment was never completed and Smith took it over this year.

"There are a lot of political issues and political differences within the Arts and Culture Council, but I just stuck to the people who paid for the video," says Smith.

These promotional videos are made completely by the students in third-year television. The typical price for one of these videos is $500. Non-profit businesses and organizations can pay anywhere from $100 to $500. This year there is a client paying $1,400, but that one contains special footage for the video.

"All of the money earned from the videos goes towards the improvement of the BRTF program, new equipment and production costs," says Webster.

The businesses and organizations receive a master copy and three VHS tapes of their promotional video, which are often shown on television.

"It's complicated working with clients and catching everything we need on film when we only have one chance to get it," says Webster.

First film project for BRTF students

By NOELLE STAPINSKY
Staff Writer

First-year Broadcasting — Radio, Television and Film (BRTF) students are attempting their first film.

Look across the Niagara College Welland campus this month, and you can see clusters of students working diligently. There are cameras, actors, directors and crew — a near replica to a real film production.

Six students filming near the main entrance to the Simcoe building are calling their film *Up and at Them*, and are working as a team making their first film.

Shannon Aishford, 19, of Etobicoke, is responsible for lighting, Chris Barnatt, 19, of St. Catharines, works the camera and Scott Corbett, 20, of Dunnsville, is the director. Ryan Copithorn, 20, of Oshawa, Krista Bunn, 19, of Niagara Falls, and Brooke Castles, 17, of Simcoe, are actors in the film.

The film is a one-minute, silent, college set film about a boy (Copithorn), who is upset about a recent breakup with his girlfriend.

Copithorn decides to talk to two girls (Bunn and Castles) sitting on a picnic table. They laugh at him. Copithorn then takes some Viagra and returns to the girls, who are surprised by the results of the Viagra treatment.

"I'm in charge of the lighting and everything else," says Aishford, "but I don't know if I'm going to stay in film or go the television next year."

The first-year BRTF students will be making 10, 20-minute films next term.

Talking may help some

By JOSEPH MORRIS
Staff Writer

It's 2 a.m. on a cold November morning when the phone rings.

It's your best friend. Under the influence of drugs, alcohol or a combination of both, your friend says, "I can't cope any more," and is talking about "taking some pills and making the pain go away."

From mid-October through to February and March, the blues seem to strike many college students, some worse than others.

At this time of year, a failed assignment, a broken relationship, or a financial crisis are often the ingredients of choice found in many cases of depression and suicide.

Gilles Prescott, of Niagara College's Centre for Students with Disabilities, says students must learn to see the difference between just feeling down and the signs that indicate a case of true depression.

These are some of the danger signals a person may exhibit:

- Changes in weight and appetite
- Changes in sleep pattern
- Experiencing a depressed mood most of the day for an extended period of time
- Reduced interest in pleasurable activities
- Increased fatigue most days
- Restlessness
- Expressing feelings of guilt
- Inability to concentrate, remember things or make decision
- Expressing thoughts of death.

"These are just the typical symptoms," Prescott says. "If you know of someone who is suffering many of these symptoms or is talking about suicide, encourage them to seek counselling right away."

The centre provides confidential, no-fee support and counselling to help students deal with some of their immediate problems, whether they are school-related or personal issuess.

In addition to problem solving, counsellors will assess the student to discover if outside help is required or if the student can be helped through one of the college's many support mechanisms.

Niagara has programs to help deal with stress arising from a variety of sources. From difficulties with financing to the needs of disabled students, the counsellors at the centre are available to help.

If you don't feel comfortable talking with a counsellor, talk to someone else. Talk to your family physician. Talk to your parents. Talk to a friend.

"An on-campus physician is available to see individuals," says Prescott.

"The Christmas season is an especially difficult time for a number of people," he says.

February and March are additional months when many counselling services experience an increase in people using their services.

"Winter is dragging on, and people are feeling it," says Prescott.

If you, or someone you know, is feeling depressed or need help, the centre may be able to help you find solutions to your troubles. You don't have to face them alone.

Fund-raising over for year

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

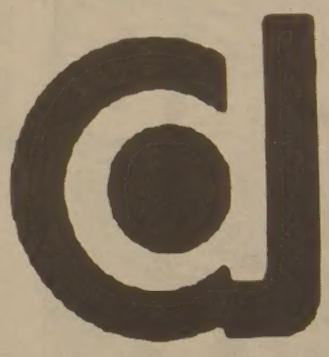
November was National Diabetes Month.

Diabetes is a condition in which the body cannot use sugar properly. People with diabetes have trouble moving sugar out of the blood into cells.

Sometimes they don't make enough insulin, a condition which is called Type One diabetes juvenile-onset. This occurs mostly in young people who become dependent on insulin injections.

The second type is adult onset diabetes, which usually develops in people over 40 whose bodies produce insulin but are unable to use it properly. Type Two diabetics can control the abnormal blood sugar by following a restricted diet and/or taking medication.

Some signs of diabetes are feeling tired, unusual thirst, frequent



urination, change in appetite and itchy skin.

People who have an increased possibility of having diabetes are those who are overweight as an adult, related to a person with diabetes, have a history of pancreatic disease or were the mother of a large baby (over nine pounds).

The Canadian Diabetes Association had fund-raising events throughout the month.

Some of the events in the Niagara Region were information nights at schools and retirement homes. As well, funds were raised by students at Westlake Secondary School in Niagara Falls, the Girl Guides of Stevensville and E.L. Crossley Secondary School.

The biggest fund-raiser was the door-to-door canvassing the association organizes with over 500 routes across the Niagara Region.

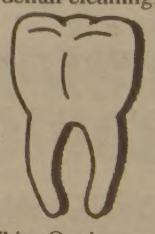
The funds raised will be announced in late December.

Dental students attacking tartar

By SARA DE TAMBLE
Staff Writer

A little White-Out goes a long way, as students in Niagara College's Dental Hygienist program are finding out. The students have been painting the substance, which is most often used on paper to correct typos, on the teeth of their models.

The White-Out, says program co-ordinator Carol Barr-Overholt, simulates the tartar which would be found on a client's teeth during a routine dental cleaning.



"The White-Out is more like calculus, it's a mineralized deposit," she says.

The purpose of applying an actual substance on the model's teeth and then scaling it off with a scaling tool is to get students comfortable with the different levels of pressure they will be using when removing real plaque from clients' teeth later on.

"They're learning to apply pressure and physically remove something rather than just going through the motions," says Barr-Overholt. "That's what we're emphasizing."

Niagara College offers professional, confidential counselling, health and peer services. Resources are available in SE102, Welland campus; W102 at Glendale campus. Health Centre services are provided by Registered Nurses Carolyn Hurst, Welland campus L20 or Christine Philbrick, Glendale W105.

Spotlight on Business

Come Join Us at The Patter Merchant

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

Not just a restaurant, not just a bar, but a home.

Margaret and her husband Neil welcome everyone of all ages and families into their restaurant and into their family.

Margaret wants their restaurant to be a place "where kids can go and not feel obligated to drink."

She says they try to leave no customers out of conversations and the regular customers and staff will introduce themselves to anyone new.

Everyone is treated equally in the Patter Merchant, whether you're a business man or a student. "We make no distinctions" and will treat everyone with the same "at home" friendly respect, says Margaret.

The Patter Merchant has many things to do including 13 dart boards, two pool tables and foosball.

They're offering a 15 per cent discount to all Niagara College students, with college identification.

There are events nearly every day of the week, as well. Sunday afternoon they have an open pool competition for a $5 entry fee and in the evening they have food specials for Sunday Night Football. Monday and Tuesday they have dart and pool leagues.

Wednesday night they have open darts costing $5 per entry. If anyone wants to learn how to play darts there are good players who would be willing to teach them, says Margaret.

Thursday and Saturday is live entertainment but "no heavy metal bands."

All of the entry fees for the open pool and open dart night go out for prizes so the more people who turn up, the more funds for the prizes.

Crib, euchre and dominoes are also available.

A full restaurant menu is offered until 9 p.m. upstairs in the restaurant. Downstairs, in the "rec room," there is a bar menu with foods to satisfy all tastebuds.

Margaret is proud that they are one of the cheapest places in the strip for beer and have reasonable prices for good food.

Photo by Sarah Storm

Katie, Margaret and Neil extend an open invitation to the students and staff of Niagara College to come and enjoy some Patter Merchant hospitality!

They offer 23 different types of drafts on tap and specialize in many imports.

They offer foods that vary from sandwiches, chicken wings and munchies to burgers, cajun chicken and steak.

The restaurant is equipped for banquets and dinners. They can seat 140 people upstairs and 140 people downstairs.

The upper floor of the restaurant was opened in May and the downstairs "rec room" in September.

They did the renovations, for the bar, themselves and with the help of some friends and local people they were ready for business.

The name "Patter Merchant" is a conversation piece. To patter is to talk, chatter or joke like a comedian of a salesman. A patter merchant is a Scottish term for someone who "is a good conversationalist," or who can B.S. with the best of them.

Neil was considered to be the patter merchant when they first opened, but now all regular customers are considered patter merchants.

Margaret enjoys her new job as one of the owners.

She says it includes long hours and hard work because they do everything themselves, such as opening and closing, shopping, cooking and paperwork.

Their daughter, Katie, does some bar tending on weekends when she is home from Mohawk College, in Hamilton.

They are hopeful their drive and determination will eventually spell success.

Margaret, Neil and Katie worked hard to change the whole image of the place and are now trying to build their clientele.

Have a Safe & Happy Holiday Season!

THE PATTER MERCHANT

TAP & GRILL

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THE PATTER MERCHANT

PATTER
1. The quick talk or chatter of a comedian or entertainer, salesman, etc.
2. The slang or private language used by a particular group or class.

MERCHANT : A person who directs trade, a retailer.

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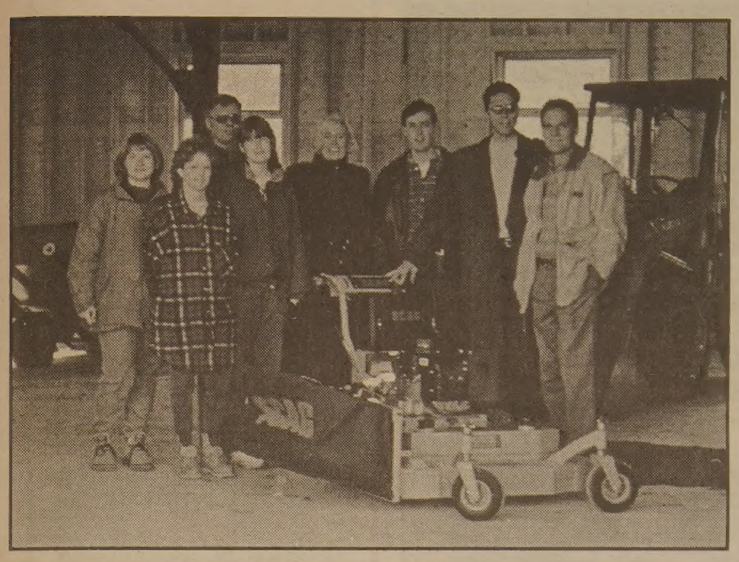
ST. CATHARINES

Community Support

Program receives great donation



Horticulture program students stand by as the Lucases donate a lawnmower to Jon Orgryzlo, program director.
Photo by Leah Farnan

By LEAH FARNAN
Staff Writer

Glendale's horticultural students received a donation that will train them for jobs.

A.M.E., a Thorold South company that sells and services small engine-powered machines, donated a $3,800 lawnmower to the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness division of the college on Dec. 1.

The company is owned and operated by Michael Lucas, 60, of St. Catharines, a former Continuing Education teacher; his wife Elvira Lucas, 58, a former co-ordinator for the Educational Resources and Special Needs program and president of the Retirees Association; and their son Andrew, 23, a former Niagara College student.

"We thought it would be nice to give something back," said Michael.

The lawnmower they donated is a SCAG 36 walk-behind mower.

Michael said the mower is "very maneuverable" and is "exactly what they'll (the students) be using on the job."

He said the machine is used by professional landscapers and services "a number of needs," adding, it's easy to use, service and change attachments.

'We thought it would be nice to give something back.'

— Michael Lucas

Michael said "the whole idea is that the students get to familiarize themselves with the equipment they'll use on the job."

"I think it's a great donation," said Jon Ogryzlo, 46, of Queenston, director of the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness division.

Orgryzlo said there are 68 acres at Glendale and the mower will help them maintain the property and introduce students to the equipment.

Campaign ends

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

The motto — United, Building a Caring Community.

The goal — record breaking.

The United Way of South Niagara's 1998 record-breaking campaign ended its successful run at the Seaway Mall in Welland on Nov. 26.

The victory rally gathered community donators, volunteers and members to announce the campaign achievement of $887,800.

Celine Hardy, general campaign chair, said the campaign has been a "wonderful experience" and it was one of the best campaign fund-raisers to date.

Awards were distributed at the rally to the donators who contributed the most toward the successful goal.

Zehr's food store employees led the retail sector by increasing its contributions to more than $12,000.

The John Deere Corporation employees were recognized for reaching the $100,000 mark for a second year with a total of $102,000.

Niagara College employees raised their participation rate to six per cent, surpassing their goal of five per cent. College employees raised more than $20,000 for the campaign.

United Way agencies throughout the Niagara Region raised more than $4.4 million with the money going to help those agencies connected with the United Way.

Laura Vanderlaan and Ray Hiscott, second-year Human Relations program students, attended the rally. They contributed to the campaign by holding a fund-raiser at the Welland campus After Hours pub by raffling off tickets in return with the chance to win prizes.

Their goal was to raise $150. They raised $180.

Hardy thanked her campaign team for their "extraordinary effort" in making this year's campaign a successful one.

Special awards were also given to the local media for their support and coverage of the campaign.

Pat Pokorny, president of the United Way of South Niagara, thanked all of the volunteers, members and the community for the successful year.

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Sports

Students could lose field trips

Farm teams fun too

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

It was a disappointing turnout.

The Niagara College's Student Administrative Council (SAC) organized a bus trip to Copps Coliseum in Hamilton for an American Hockey League (AHL) game between the Hamilton Bulldogs and the St. John's Maple Leafs.

Unfortunately, not many students showed up.

"I think there could have been better involvement from the students," said Michael Chorney, SAC vice-president of campus events at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls. "I was out in the hall (at our campus) almost scalping tickets."

SAC donated some of the tickets to Big Brothers in Welland, but the bus was not as full as expected.

The game itself was entertaining. St. John's, the farm team of the Toronto Maple Leafs, defeated Hamilton, the farm team of the Edmonton Oilers, 3-2 in overtime. The game featured some hard body-checks and four fights.

The Hamilton Bulldogs faced off against the St. John's Maple Leafs on Nov. 25. Niagara College students, on the SAC trip, were treated to an overtime thriller. **Photo by Lee Whitehead**

"I thought the game was very interesting," said Stefan Struck, 19, a first-year Culinary Management program student. "I've never seen an AHL game. This was a good experience. I'd definitely go again."

Chorney said SAC is working on organizing a trip to Buffalo to see an National Hockey League contest between the Sabres and the Montreal Canadiens.

"What it boils down to is why should we book another trip when the participation of the students wasn't there for this one," Chorney said. "If the students don't support a $10 trip, why should we think they'd support a $50 game?"

Two wins in two games

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

The women's volleyball team makes it two wins in a row.

On Nov. 29 the Niagara Knights lost their first match to Confederation College, from Thunder Bay, but came back to win the last three matches, and the game, 4-15, 15-0, 15-5, and 15-6. The Knights also won against Confederation on Nov. 27.

Jesse Knight, assistant coach, says, "It was fantastic, a total turnaround (from the Nov. 27 game), from control to tempo of the game," adding "serving was a big part of the last match, passing was great."

Iazayana Chavez spikes the ball while Leah Keracher watches. **Photo by Lee Whitehead**

Michelle Stanton, power position, and Iazayana Chavez, right side position, both had two aces.

Liana Collins, power position, led with 10 kills and Stanton had five.

Asked about team strengths, Knight says the team has many and "the ability to play together."

Their weakness, he says, is "external factors such as school and social life, and that's a part of being a varsity athlete. Once we overcome those, I don't think that there is anything that's going to stop us."

The women's volleyball team's next two home games are on Jan. 13 against Sheridan College from Oakville at 8:30 p.m. and Jan. 15 against Redeemer College from Ancaster at 6:30 p.m.

The women's volleyball Ontario Colleges Athletic Association All-Star game is at Niagara in the Mackenzie building on Jan. 16 at 1 p.m.

Comeback makes for stronger team character

Communication key for game win

By AMY KAAL
Staff Writer

The Niagara College women's volleyball team came from behind to win the best of five match.

The Niagara Knights beat Confederation College, of Thunder Bay, on Nov. 27 in the last three matches 4-15, 8-15,15-8, 15-8 and 15-10. Niagara lost the first two matches.

Liana Collins, 21, of Midland, who plays power position, had 18 kills and one ace.

Collins says the comeback to win the last three matches was "all heart. We really needed this game because we lost three straight to Redeemer."

Jesse Knight, assistant coach, says "the comeback is going to make them stronger as a team, character-wise."

Collins says, "I try and lead the team and be pumped all the time so the team can feed off me because sometimes it is hard to get up (for a game)."

Michelle Stanton, 23, of Chatham, who plays power position, talked about the slow start. "I think we had trouble communicating. We've been really working on it, but it really didn't come together until we had to fight with the referee about several things."

Matches were 'all heart.' — Liana Collins

Asked about the questionable calls, Collins says, "You can't let those things bother you."

Working as a team, Stanton says, "We're coming out more as a team. We're just now putting it on the court."

Collins says, "We worked really hard and everyone wanted to win. I really liked this game. Everyone motivated themselves. Everyone was really in it."

Stanton had 16 kills and two aces. Adding nine kills was Iazayana Chavez on the right side position.

Knight says, "It was a good game and we can feed off that but there were a lot of errors we have to fix."

Liana Collins delivers a kill during a game against Confederation College on Nov. 27. **Photo by Lee Whitehead**

Sports

Knights come from behind for big win

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

What a comeback! What a game!

The Niagara College Knights women's basketball team went on a 13-3 run in the final seven minutes to pull out a 44-43 come-from-behind victory against Oshawa's Durham College Lady Lords on Dec. 4.

Knights veteran Andrea Flindall said the win was huge for the team.

"It was awesome," said Flindall, 21, a first-year student in the General Arts and Science program. "We came out and knew we needed a win today because we were 1-3. We came back because we knew we had to."

"We knew it would be a tough game," said Knights' head coach Georgie Groat, 29, of St. Catharines. "We have been practicing really hard since our Fanshawe game. We (were) blown away by Fanshawe and (we) didn't play very well. It was a great effort (tonight)."

After taking a 27-23 lead into the half, the Knights came out flat in the second.

They were unable to score until seven minutes into the half and were outscored by Durham 10-1 in the first 10 minutes.

The Knights fell behind 40-31 with seven minutes to go when they snapped out of their lull.

Melissa Hallborg's three-point jumper tied the score with under two minutes to play.

"I didn't even know I tied the game, actually," said Hallborg, 19, a first-year student in the Accounting (Co-op) program. "I was really feeling (the emotion) at that point."

'. . . we're starting to play as a team now and it feels good.'
— Melissa Hallborg

The Knights, now with all the momentum, allowed only one more point the rest of the game. With the two points scored by Kristin Flindall in the final minute, they had the win.

However, Groat said she was concerned about the team's slow start in the second half.

"It might not have been so close if we'd stayed focused for 40 minutes. They're having a hard time concentrating for 40 minutes."

The comeback was good for team morale.

"We came together as a team," said Hallborg. "It took a while but we're finally getting it. Early in the season, we never really played together because there were so many rookies. We're starting to play as a team now, and it feels good."

"Durham's a good team," said Andrea Flindall. "We know we can (win). It's just a matter of us all getting our heads together at the same time."

Top scorer for the Knights was Kristin Flindall who dropped in 12 points. Also scoring were Hallborg (11), Andrea Flindall (seven), Kristin Davies (four), Caryn Thompson (three), Candace Oxford (three), Heidi VanDerWier (two) and LeighAnn Breault (two).

The Knights' record is two wins and three losses. It will stay that way until the new year as the team plays exhibition games before Christmas.

The regular season schedule will start Jan. 14 when the Knights travel to George Brown College in Toronto.

Melissa Hallborg puts up a shot in the Knights' game against Durham. The Knights came from behind for the victory.
Photo by Lee Whitehead

Boyle leads Knights' offensive charge

Men's team improve season record to 2-1

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

The Niagara College Knights men's basketball team improved its regular season record to 2-1 with an impressive 89-70 win against Sarnia's Lambton College Lions on Nov. 27.

Second-year veteran Steve Boyle led the Knights offensively, scoring 17 points in the first half alone.

"Offensively, we played well," said Boyle, 22, a second-year Hotel and Restaurant Management program student. "We moved the ball around. But defensively, I think we can work a little better as a team."

The defence struggled throughout most of the game, which allowed Lambton to keep the score close.

"It seems we keep doing it," said Randy Clark, 19, a first-year General Arts and Science program student. "We underestimate teams and come out and play nonchalant."

Knights' head coach Jeff MacDonald was pleased with the overall performance.

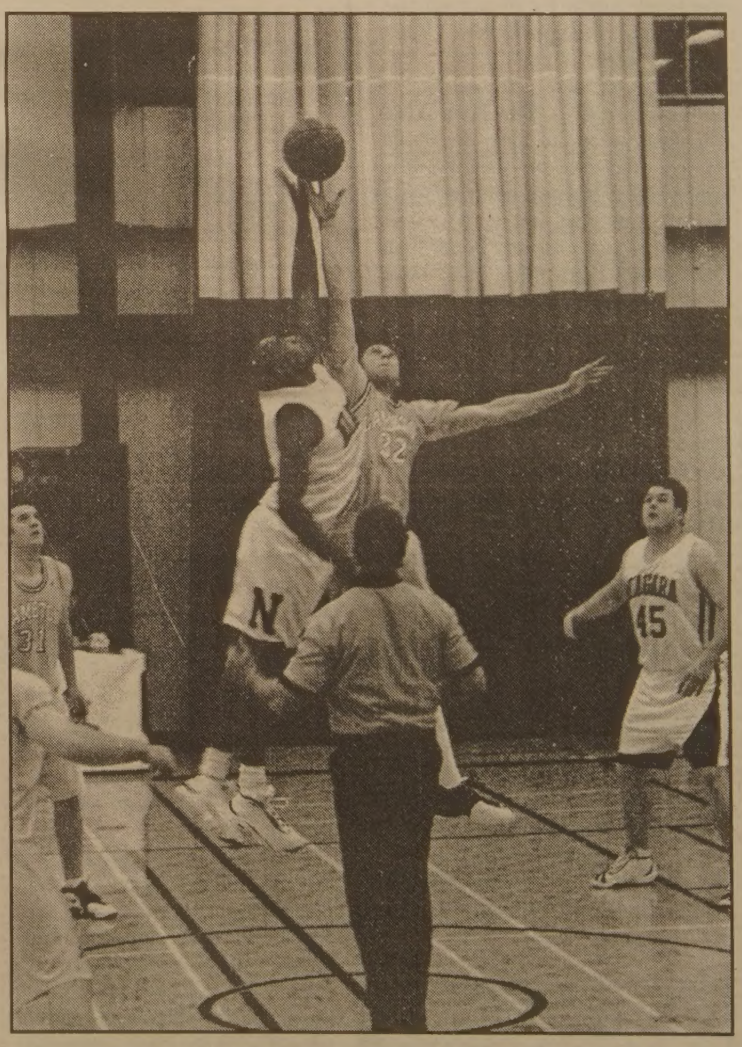
"I thought we played in bursts of brilliance and then bursts of not-so-brilliance," he said. "The great thing is we played hard all game."

The struggling defense caused some frustration in the first half. Clark was hit with a technical foul and Marcus O'Connor, coming off an injury, was having foul trouble of his own.

However, assistant coach Ric Ethier says he thought O'Connor played well for his first game in two weeks.

"When he was at the top of our press, we were able to take time off their shot-clock. I think that was the key," said Ethier.

Although the Knights' defence was sluggish for the most part, it improved midway through the second half.



Marcus O'Connor wins the tip-off for the Knights at the start of their 89-70 win against Lambton.
Photo by Lee Whitehead

"Our defence was kind of lackadaisical," said Haldan Hutchison, a first-year Business Administration program student, "but we picked it up towards the end."

After going to the half with a 40-33 lead, the Knights extended their lead to as much as 22 points, thanks to the improved defence and excellent shooting from Boyle, Clark and Curtis Francis.

Throughout the game, the Knights' coaches took advantage of the team's depth on the bench and cited this as a reason for pulling away from Lambton late in the game.

"We were very satisfied with our bench performance," said Ethier.

"We utilized our team," said MacDonald. "Player for player, we have a better team and that's what should happen."

Scoring for the Knights were Boyle (22 points), Clark (15), Hutchison (15), Francis (12), O'Connor (eight), Ben Tomiuck (five), Dave Klassen (four), Paul Stewart (four), Mike Wencel (two), and Brett Elliott (two).

Bently named OCAA athlete of the week

By BARBARA DODDY
Staff Writer

Niagara has an award-winning athlete in its midst.

Kirby Bently, third-year veteran on the Knight's men's volleyball team, was declared Male Athlete of the Week by the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association.

Bently had major contributions in the Knights' games against Ancaster's Redeemer Royals on Nov. 18, and also against Sudbury's Cambrian Golden Shield on Nov. 22.

In the Nov. 18 game, Bently had 24 points in total offence with 19 kills, four stuffed blocks and one ace.

During the Nov. 22 game, Bently had 17 kills and three stuffed blocks, for a total of 20 points in offence. Bently is in the number eight spot for the West Division's scoring race. He's averaging 4.5 points per game.

The team also is enjoying the limelight. It's tied for first in the division with a perfect 4-0 record.

The Knights proved they can win on the road as easily as they can win at home.

The men battled Redeemer College on Nov. 18. They lost the first set but battled back to win the last three, scores were 13-15, 15-9, 16-14 and 15-12.

In the Nov. 23 game, against Cambrian College, the Knights took all three sets from the Golden Shields with scores of 15-6, 15-4 and 15-6.

The Knights play a home game tonight against Seneca College from North York at 6:30 p.m.

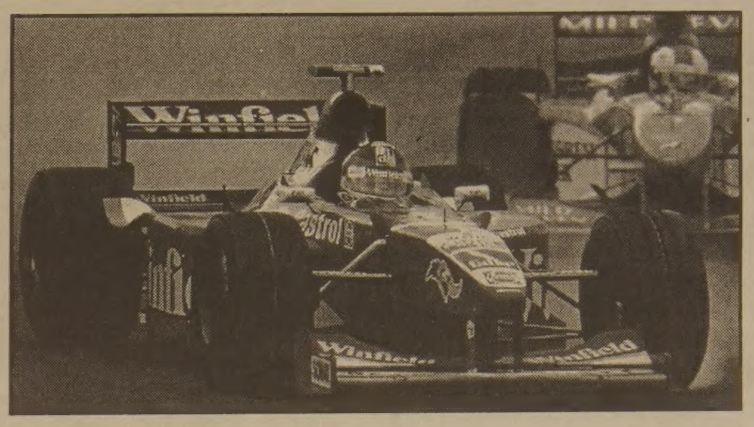
Sports

Villeneuve crashes in 1998 racing season

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Call it champion's hangover. Call it lack of motivation. Call it whatever you like, but the end result is the same. Jacques Villeneuve did not live up to the standards he set in 1997.

After capturing the Formula One (F1) driver's championship last year, auto racing's most prestigious honour, Villeneuve suffered through a disappointing season this year.



Driving for the Williams-Renault team, F1 experts noted Villeneuve was driving the best car on the circuit. For the 1998 season, Renault pulled out of F1, forcing the Williams team to look for another engine supplier, which turned out to be Mecrachrome.

Villeneuve, no longer having the luxury of driving the superior car, was forced to use all his talent to scratch and claw his way into the points.

This forced the French-Canadian into making some stupid mistakes. For example, in Montreal this past June, he tried an impossible overtaking move in an attempt to move into first place ahead of Italy's Giancarlo Fisichella. Villeneuve braked too late, skidded off the circuit and was hit from behind upon returning, essentially ending his chance at a podium finish.

It's unfortunate Villeneuve was reluctant to blame the disappointing season on his own mistakes. Instead, he blamed the car, the engine or the tyres.

Villeneuve will leave the Williams team and drive for the new British American Racing (BAR) team in 1999. This could prove to be a mistake.

In two years, Williams' engines will be supplied by BMW. The German company's involvement will certainly mean a return, by the Williams team, to the top.

Villeneuve may have been too hasty in signing with BAR. The Williams team has never settled for mediocrity and worked extremely hard this year in an attempt to bring the car back up to par.

It's doubtful BAR will be able to compete with the Big Four (Williams, Ferrari, McLaren and Benetton) despite team manager Craig Pollack's promise to be competitive from the first day.

Villeneuve would have been better off re-signing with Williams for 1999 and chalking up this year's disappointing results to an off-year.

Unbe "leaf" able start for Toronto

By JEFF BOLAN
Staff Writer

Every year around this time, sports lovers gather to discuss the greatest events of the previous sporting season.

Most sit around their local taverns and impress their friends with their wonderful mastery of all sporting facts, no matter how trivial.

I am no different, of course, but my mastery of sporting wisdom is slightly askew.

Feel free to debate these amongst yourselves. In reverse order, here are my choices:

Number 10 — The disappearance of the very prominent Nike symbol from everything and anything sports related. I'm not a fan of Nike or their products, but I really like the new subdued image of the sportswear giant. It's about time.

Number 9 — The strike/lockout in the National Basketball Association (NBA) will be making me smile all winter long. Not only do I not like basketball, but also I do not like the astronomical salaries the players were getting paid, or the millions the owners were making off these same players: Unfortunately, the NBA has long been a trend-setter for professional sport, so I'm hoping they will get their ship straightened out so that the other major sports will follow their trail.

Number 8 — The classy Cal Ripken has finally put the question to rest by voluntarily sitting out a game. His consecutive games played streak stretched to an amazing 2,632 games. I'll put my money where my mouth is and say this is one record which will never be broken.

Number 7 — Scotty Bowman has proved yet again that he alone knows how to handle the egos involved when you get high-calibre hockey players sitting in the same change room. While his Cup-winning teams have arguably always had the most skilled players of any team, he was also the glue that held them all together. Winning two in a row is a testament to his skill.

Number 6 — Curling has gone gold — for the women anyway. In a move to open up the Olympics to non-traditional sports, curling was an incredible addition. In a sport devoid of big money, winning an Olympic gold medal is the ultimate high. This time, in Nagano, competing was enough. Next time the nation will be expecting double gold.

Number 5 — John Elway has finally put the icing on the cake of his incredible career. In a classic Super Bowl game, Elway and his Bronco teammates shocked the football world by upsetting the defending champions, the Green Bay Packers.

Number 4 — The New York Yankees were the most dominant baseball team in my lifetime. It is impossible for me to compare them with teams past, but if the teams from the past were any better than this year's team, they must have been absolutely amazing!

Number 3 — The Mark and Sammy show rejuvenated the casual fans' interest in the game of baseball. Though McGwire's 70 home runs were tainted by his use of a controversial pharmaceutical aid, his achievement is impressive regardless.

Number 2 — Baseball is back! Thanks to McGwire, Sosa, Ripken, the Yankees and countless others, fans are finally starting to look forward to the next season.

Number 1 — The Toronto Maple Leafs have a winning record, heading into the second third of the season! Really! Check it out if you don't believe me. Pat Quinn is relying heavily on all-star goalie Curtis Joseph, allowing the team to take a more offensive approach than in years past.

Yankees take top spot in 1998

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

It was a sensational year in the world of sports. The follwing is my list of the 10 biggest accomplishments of 1998 year, in reverse order:

Number 10 — NAGANO CZECHED — Despite the attention goaltender Dominik Hasek received, it was an unknown, underrated defence that won the Olympic hockey gold medal for the Czech Republic. The medal favourites — Canada, Sweden and the United States — disappointingly didn't win a medal of any kind.

Number 9 — FLUTIE MANIA—Buffalo Bills' quarterback Doug Flutie ignored his critics and won the hearts of Western New York football fans. Flutie's unorthodox play quickly transformed the struggling Bills into a playoff contender.

Number 8 — DOUBLE WINGS — The Detroit Red Wings won their second straight Stanley Cup by beating the Washington Capitals in four straight games. Red Wings' captain Steve Yzerman was the playoff MVP.

Number 7 — REPEAT THREE-PEAT — For the second time this decade, the Michael Jordan-led Chicago Bulls won the National Basketball Association championship for the third consecutive year. The Bulls easily disposed of the Utah Jazz in the finals.

Number 6 — THE STREAK ENDS — Baltimore Orioles' third baseman Cal Ripken's consecutive games played streak came to an end in September. Ripken started a remarkable 2,632 games, spanning 17 seasons.

Number 5 — MIKA MAGIC — Formula One (F1) driver Mika Hakkinen from Finland, won the driver's championship after a season-long battle with Germany's Michael Schumacher. The championship is a dream accomplishment for Hakkinen's career, which almost ended in 1995 because of a near-fatal accident.

Number 4 — SLAMMIN' SAMMY — Overlooked in the home run records because of McGwire, Chicago Cubs' outfielder Sammy Sosa also passed Maris's home run total. Sosa belted 66 home runs and earned National League Most Valuable Player honours, leading the Cubs to the playoffs.

Number 3 — FINALLY ELWAY — Three failed Super Bowl attempts were not enough to discourage Denver Broncos' quarterback John Elway. Elway, along with running back Terrell Davis, led the Broncos to a 31-24 upset victory over the Green Bay Packers in what was the most exciting Super Bowl ever.

Number 2 — BIG MAC ATTACK — Not only did St. Louis Cardinals' slugger Mark McGwire break Roger Maris's single-season home run record, he shattered it. McGwire slammed 70 home runs, surpassing Maris's 61 that he hit in 1961.

Number 1 — THE BEST EVER — In a baseball season where so much attention was on individual accolades, it was the New York Yankees team that tops the list of biggest events. The Yankees cruised through the regular season with 114 wins, and had no difficulty in the playoffs, winning their second World Series championship in the last three years. The 1998 Yankees are arguably the greatest baseball team of all time.

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Sports

Platform tennis, winter-time fun for everyone

By ROSEMARY BARTLETT
Staff Writer

FONTHILL — It's a Saturday afternoon in late November. No snow has fallen, yet the wind has a bite to it.

Veteran paddle player Nancy Jordan, of Fonthill, maintains a constant chatter on the court, giving instructions to her novice partner as he retrieves a ball off the screen. On the second court, the doubles players are switching sides, having completed one game of their set.

The players are wearing either headbands or hats to keep their heads warm. All are attired in loose-fitting clothing, wearing layers of turtlenecks, sweaters and jacket, but they are ready to peel them off if it gets too warm as they travel in their sneakered feet from the back of the court to the net returning their opponent's volleys and serves.

About 10 other players, similarly attired, watch the action on the courts from a deck extending from the platform tennis club building to the two screened courts. Some have a glass of wine inhand, others a beer. Still others have their hands in their pockets.

Inside the warmth of the clubhouse, members help themselves to soup, bread and other nibblies associated with parties. Hearty laughter and bits and pieces of 10 or more conversations are heard throughout the tiny space.

"It's a real fun club, I guess because we are small," said Monica Rose, of Wainfleet, and two-term president of the Platform Tennis Club in Fonthill.

With about 100 individual members, this club, located at the Pelham arena site on Haist Street, is the only platform tennis club in the peninsula, said Rose. She adds two of their members have built courts at their homes, which are made available to the club. The closest clubs are in Toronto or London, Ont.

"Otherwise you have to go stateside for other courts," said Rose.

Platform tennis, also known as paddle tennis, is an American invention with its beginnings in Scarsdale, N.Y. In *Winning Platform Tennis*, author and former world champion Doug Russell said the game was invented by neighbours and sports enthusiasts Jim Cogswell and Fessenden Blanchard as an "alternative for staying in the house when the weather was too cold for tennis."

The court, painted onto a raised aluminum platform, is one-third the size of a tennis court, said Rose. It's surrounded on four sides by a 12-foot high wire screen. The surface of the court is coarse, and propane heaters located underneath the courts are used to de-ice the surfaces.

"When the court is dry we just turn them off because they don't serve a heating purpose." The courts are lit for night games.

Although the game can be played through any type of weather typical to the peninsula, Rose says it's up to the "discretion of the people in their leagues" to play during rain or snowstorms.

The game is a combination of tennis and "definitely some racquetball or squash," said Rose. It's scored like tennis, yet the server only gets one serve on each side of the court.

"A lot of people that come out usually have played some sort of racquet or paddle sport before," says Rose. She says the game is "very easy" to learn, adding, it doesn't require an "extreme amount of strength because if someone hits the ball really hard, you have the second chance to get it off the screen." She says it does require "very good hand-eye co-ordination."

Memberships are open to all ages. A family can join the club for $390 a year. A single membership is $220. Students pay $50 while a junior membership is $25. Social memberships are $25. New members joining in January pay half the price of a regular membership.

"There are no court fees, and all balls are included for all the games and tournaments." Paddles are available at the club for new members to try out, but new ones can be purchased from $75 to $100, said Rose.

Mixed tournament events, called scrambles, are played once a month from September to April. Men's, ladies' and juniors' doubles leagues are played throughout the week.

"I joined initially to get some outdoor activity in the winter," said Mary Smith, of R.R. 1, Ridgeville. "I find it's addictive, and I really love it."

For more information on the Platform Tennis Club, call Regina Treschak at 905-735-9967.

OCAA MEN'S BASKETBALL WEST DIVISION STANDINGS

(as of Dec. 7)

TEAM	GP	W	L	FOR	AGT	PTS
Fanshawe	4	3	1	321	261	6
Mohawk	2	2	0	180	140	4
NIAGARA	3	2	1	234	226	4
Redeemer	5	2	3	423	417	4
St. Clair	1	1	0	102	69	2
Sault	4	1	3	288	351	2
Lambton	3	0	3	200	284	0

OCAA Women's Basketball Team Standings

(as of Dec. 7)

TEAM	GP	W	L	FOR	AGT	PTS
Humber	5	5	0	425	160	10
Fanshawe	5	5	1	390	228	10
Mohawk	6	5	1	379	264	10
George Brown	7	4	3	370	366	8
Seneca	6	3	3	297	324	6
Durham	7	3	4	334	345	6
NIAGARA	5	2	3	213	291	4
Georgian	6	0	6	142	405	0
Redeemer	6	0	6	227	394	0

LEGEND--GP-Games Played, **W**-Wins, **L**-Losses, **FOR**-Points For, **AGT**-Points Againts, **PTS**-Points

OCAA MEN'S VOLLEYBALL WEST DIVISION STANDINGS

(as of Dec. 7)

TEAM	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
Humber	6	6	0	18	1	12
NIAGARA	6	5	1	17	7	10
Seneca	6	5	1	16	7	10
Redeemer	8	4	4	15	15	8
Mohawk	8	3	5	14	21	6
Cambrian	7	2	5	11	19	4
Sheridan	6	1	5	9	16	2
Georgian	7	1	6	6	20	2

OCAA WOMEN'S VOLLEYBALL WEST DIVISION STANDINGS

(as of Dec. 7)

TEAM	MP	MW	ML	GW	GL	PTS
Sault	4	4	0	12	3	8
NIAGARA	4	3	1	9	6	6
Lambton	5	3	2	11	8	6
Mohawk	5	3	2	11	8	6
Redeemer	6	3	3	11	11	6
St. Clair	4	1	3	4	11	2
Confederation	6	0	6	7	18	0

LEGEND--MP-Matches Played, **MW**-Matches Won, **ML**-Matches Lost, **GW**-Games Won, **GL**-Games Lost, **PTS**-Points

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On Stage

Joydrop performs at After Hours.

Photo by Jodi Gierling

Fans' favourites played

By JODI GIERLING
Staff Writer

It was Canadian music at the Welland campus After Hours pub.

Joydrop, a Toronto-based band, played at the pub on Dec. 3.

The group of four have been together for two years, and have done one Canadian tour promoting their new album **Metasexual**.

Tara Slone, lead singer, says it was hard to get started in Canada as a Canadian band, but they got some good air time on radio.

Slone plays Gail in the television show Nikita. "I love acting. It's a great way to keep my foot in the acting thing."

The rest of Joydrop is Thomas Payne, who plays guitar, Tony Rabalao who plays drums, and Tom Mckay, who plays guitar.

"They rock," says Mathieu LeFrancois, 19, a second-year Business Administation-Marketing program student.

This was LeFrancois' first time seeing them. He says his favourite songs are *Spiders* and *Beautiful*, which is the first single.

Like LeFrancois, Michael Sims, 21, in the Interactive Multimedia program, says this is his first time seeing the group, but he has been a fan since the group's beginning.

Bomboras set House on fire

By LISA HEYDON
Staff Writer

A southern California band, the Bomboras, played an electrifying show that set the Frat House on fire Nov. 26.

The Bomboras, a surf band, entertained a packed house in St. Catharines. The band is best known for its crazy stage antics, which include everything from costumes to go-go dancers to lighting its instruments on fire.

The stage was set with black lights and glowing skulls as smoke filled the Fratt House. Behind the faint smoke cloud, the Bomboras took the stage to the sound of an eerie organ evoking a haunted house. The audience needed little encouragement to let loose and dance to the mesmerizing sound as the band began its set.

The Bomboras consist of Dave Klein, drums, Shane Van Dyke, bass, Gregg Hunt and Johnny De Villa, guitar and Jake Cavaliere, organ.

The band, formed in 1994, recently released its fourth album, **Head Shrikin' Fun**, on its new record label Zombie A-Go-Go Records.

The album was recorded in the United States and took a week to complete.

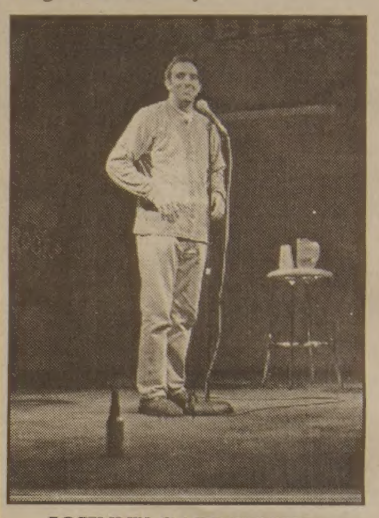
The Bomboras are touring North America and will be back in Toronto Dec. 27.

Comic L.A. bound

By SHARILYN JOHNSON
Staff Writer

It will be a long time before comedian Johnny Gardhouse returns to Niagara College.

Gardhouse performed at After Hours at the Welland campus on Nov. 18, his last Ontario show before making his move to Los Angeles in January.



JOHNNY GARDHOUSE

He says there's "lots of opportunity down there, and I want to go while I'm still semi-young. It's going to be pilot season, when they do all the replacement shows, so there's lots of opportunities for young, struggling comedic actors."

Spring in Los Angeles sees thousands of actors and comedians vying for one of the hundreds of parts available in pilot (or test) episodes for television shows. Only a handful of these shows are picked by the networks for the regular schedule.

He says he has commercial work lined up with some American directors he has met, and he wants to continue doing stand-up while he's there.

The Owen Sound native has performed "at least 10" shows at Niagara College.

"Of all the schools, this is one of my faves," he says. "Everybody is so nice and so accommodating and likes to have a good time."

"(After Hours Manager) Dave Rapelje is one of the nicest guys I've ever met in this business — and he doesn't mind if you throw up on his lawn."

He is referring to when he stayed at Rapelje's house after emceeing last spring's Year End Bash in St. Catharines.

"I stress, you guys all have a great time. You really know how to show a guy from Toronto a good time, and I just got a little too enthusiastic about the party."

Besides his experiences at Niagara, Gardhouse has paid his dues touring Canada, appearing in commercials, and making a highly publicized faked appearance on Jerry Springer. One of his most recent jobs was doing promotions for Labatt's.

"That was seven weeks of pure fun," he says. "Working for a brewery — that's like my dream job. Tons of free stuff. All I had to do was dress up like an airline captain. That was the only drawback, but it was fun."

Gardhouse won't escape Canada without a final dose of road work.

"I go to Edmonton for the first week, Vancouver for the second. Then it's Saskatchewan, Calgary, and the interior of B.C."

The next morning would see him boarding a 7:30 flight to start the tour, a prospect he wasn't looking forward to.

"I'm not a good flyer and it's too early to get a beer at 7:30."

To make matters worse, "my room-mate thought it would be funny to watch *Alive* this afternoon."

Gardhouse could be the next Canadian to hit it big in comedy south of the border, but he doesn't seem overly optimistic about the possibilities for fame and fortune.

"If things work out then I'll stay," he says, "but if they don't I can always come back."

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Sound Check

Sepultura evolve musically past their roots

Against hits you hard

By STACEY SCHMITT
Staff Writer

Sepultura's new CD will leave all other bands green with envy.

Why? Because of their new singer Derrick Green, and because **Against** picks up where **Roots** left off.

Against hits you hard in the face with the pure aggression of the title track and continues with *Choke*. The aggression is interspersed with a few instrumental Brazilian tribal songs. Some even feature Japanese Kodo drummers, such as in the song *Kamaitachi*.

As good a singer as Green is, he doesn't totally fill the shoes of former singer/ guitarist/founding member Max Cavalera, who left the band in 1997, citing differences, to form his new band Soulfly.

Many Sepultura fans were left wondering if Green could pull off the job as new front man. He can, but as I said, he's no Cavalera.

Sepultura, consisting of Andreas Kisser, guitar/vocals, Paulo Jr., bass, Igor Cavalera, drums/percussion and Green, has created an excellent album that will keep them atop the metal ladder.

When a band lists bands such as Earth Crisis, Unsane, Faith No More and Machine Head in their credits, you are sure to have one heavy CD in your grasp.

Against may take a few listens to get into, but once there, you may never want to leave.

As excellent as **Against** is I have to admit I like Cavalera's project Soulfly just a little bit better.

I give it an eight out of 10.

Vanilla Ice truly hard to swallow

By CHARLIE ASHBURY
Staff Writer

Imagine, if you can, Vanilla Ice. Now think of a really heavy band such as Soulfly or Korn. Now, mix the two.

That's right, ladies and gents. Ice is back with his brand new invention: a Limp Bizkit, Soulfly-wanna-be album.

I guess it's supposed to make us think Vanilla Ice, somewhere along the line, became a hardcore metal head. The fact is this album isn't terrible — it's just not original.

I knew it was going to be heavy because Ross Robinson was producing it. He's brought the world such gems as Sepultura's **Roots**, Korn's debut and **Life is Peachy**, and Soulfly. You can sure hear those influences all over the album too.

Songs *Living* and *Scars* get you going out of the gate, but then it's downhill from there. The song *Zig Zag Stories* is a complete joke. Apparently during his hiatus, Vanilla Ice took up smoking, well, you know, and I guess he feels he has to tell everyone about it. Come on!

The other two tracks worth listening to are a re-vamped version of Ice Ice Baby called *Too Cold* and *S.N.A.F.U.*, but other than that I'd say old Vanilla better stick to, well, whatever the heck he was doing before this.

I give it five out of 10.

Goo Goo Dolls dizzy with Iris's success

By LEE WHITEHEAD
Staff Writer

Take off your diapers and get ready to rock. The Goo Goo Dolls are back.

The trio from Buffalo, N.Y., have released **Dizzy Up the Girl**, their follow-up to their successful previous CD, **A Boy Named Goo**.

The CD's first single, *Iris*, was featured in the movie *City of Angels*, starring Nicholas Cage and Meg Ryan.

The song was one of the most popular in the summer and was on the music charts for several months.

The second single, *Slide*, has proven to be just as popular.

The Goo Goo Dolls have produced a masterpiece again

Guitarist and lead singer John Rzeznik, bassist Robby Takac and drummer Mike Malinin have combined their musical talents to create a remarkable package, containing better music than their previous CD.

Dizzy Up the Girl's music isn't as heavy as that on **A Boy Named Goo**, but their softer style highlights the band's musical talent.

The Goo Goo Dolls have produced a masterpiece again. They'll be hard-pressed to release a future CD displaying the song-writing and musical performance talent presented on **Dizzy Up the Girl**.

Distasteful lyrics add to CD's humour

Chef Aid: The South Park Album is worth the wait

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

You've waited, you've wondered. Now it's here, and you won't be disappointed.

Chef Aid: The South Park Album is worth the wait. Besides featuring such performers as Ozzy Osbourne, Sir Elton John, Rancid and Primus, to name a few, it includes tracks by your favourite South Park characters.

In the usual South Park tradition the lyrics are somewhat distasteful, unless you're accustomed to the usual South Park humour.

If you're not fond of comedy that pokes fun at the politically correct nature of today's society, then perhaps this disc is not for you.

Of course a South Park album wouldn't be complete without the *South Park Theme*, performed by Primus.

Done in the style of a concert with Chef as the emcee, the disc also features Cartman singing his rousing rendition of *Come Sail Away*.

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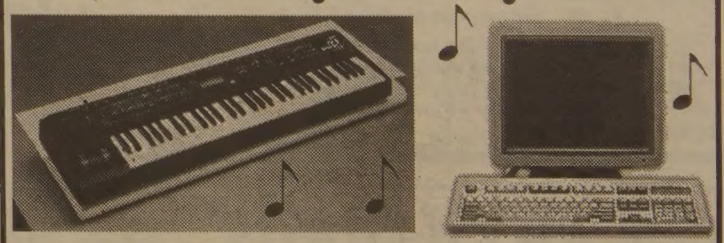

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Eye On Niagara

Join Big Brothers

By TYLER-LEIGH ROBINSON
Staff Writer

Be a Big Brother and give a young boy a chance.

The Big Brothers of South Niagara Inc. has been serving the community for more than 34 years by providing boys who come from father-absent homes with "big brothers."

The agency has helped 107 clients in 1998 and has a 40-client waiting list.

The agency began as a program to help misguided boys at risk of getting into trouble with the law or of dropping out of school.

The mission statement has changed over the years. Its focus is to provide service for boys in need of a mentor and a friend.

Many of the boys who seek help at the agency come from homes where a father figure is not available. These situations may involve divorce, an illness, death or imprisonment.

Big Brothers provides these children with two different mentoring services.

The first is its core program matching a boy with a male adult or with a male and female couple.

The second service is provided in an in-school setting for boys who need extra attention. These may be the new student in school or someone who has a hard time making friends.

Gregory Whelan, executive director, said the in-school program doesn't focus on the academic side but gives a boy the stability of an adult friend to provide additional support.

The agency is a referral-based program which receives calls from other agencies, schools, families and mothers of boys in need.

The agency is always looking for volunteers to be a big brother, and those who are interested can pick up an application or contact the office at (905) 735-0570.

The volunteers are thoroughly screened, including police record checks, and are asked to come to an information session where they are told about certain requirements and expectations.

Whelan said events are held throughout the year. These include the annual Christmas party, and sports tournaments, which include matched boys and those on the waiting list.

Whelan said an analysis has been done to examine the program's success and benefits provided for the community.

He said children with a mentor have "out-performed" those who didn't have one and have had "success in school."

He said the boys have a "higher respect for authority and the law."

Whelan was a former big brother prior to his current position and said his heart was already in the organization.

The agency needs to raise more than $80,000 for 1999 and plans to fund-raise through different events. The first one, Bowl for Kids' Sake, will be held in February.

The Big Brothers office is at 800 Niagara St., Welland, Ont., at the Seaway Mall.

Laird finds his calling at LRC

Librarian enjoys working at Glendale's LRC

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — Ralph Laird, librarian, says he may have found his calling at the Learning Resource Centre at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Laird, 40, says he has had many careers throughout his life but being a librarian is "pretty close to my calling."

He began working at the Glendale campus in September. He says after having many jobs he needed a change.

He went to libraries and career centres at Brock University in St. Catharines and Niagara College to look for a new career field, then realized he wanted to be a librarian.

"I was always in the library looking for career information and I thought, 'Hey, that would be an interesting job.'"

Laird went back to school, this time at the University of Western Ontario in London, and graduated at the end of 1996.

He says about the Glendale campus "it's nice to be involved in something right from the start."

"Here I do everything from opening newspapers in the morning to unlocking the place."

He says the library is coming together and he is "glad that he is doing more typical library work like helping people find information, now that we have books."

Before he became a librarian he had many jobs but didn't feel any were right for him, Laird says. After high school he went to university to study French and German.

Laird went to libraries to look for a new career field and realized he wanted to be a librarian.

He says he didn't know what he wanted to do but he had "a vague notion of teaching.

"I didn't want to go to get a PhD . . . so I decided teaching would be the next step. So I did, I went into teacher's college."

In 1987, Laird graduated from teacher's college and taught for one year at a French immersion school in Hanover, Ont.

While teaching in Hanover, Laird applied for a job in Japan and was accepted. Instead of returning to Hanover for a second year, he took the job in Japan for two years to teach English.

"That was a highlight. Teaching English was OK, but really, I was there because of the interesting culture."

He says he knew he wasn't going to make a career out of teaching, so he came back to the Niagara region.

"I knew I wasn't going to be a teacher forever . . . so when I came back I got temporary jobs through temp agencies."

Laird says he decided to go back to school and he applied to Niagara College in the Horticulture program.

"I've always liked gardening. I grew up on a farm in Niagara."

Laird says after he got his diploma, he started working for a local nursery and began his own business planting trees in the evening.

He did this for four years but decided he "couldn't make a living out of it."

Then Laird decided to be a librarian.

He will be working at the Learning Resource Centre at Glendale campus until December, when his contract expires.

He says he hopes he can stay on at the college.

"It's a very good facility . . . and it promises to get even better."

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Eye On Niagara

Students have say in future funding

Adjusted funding begins in 2000-01

By SEAN COFFEY
Staff Writer

The future of Niagara College's funding is partly in the hands of its students.

Key Performance Indicators (KPIs), a new system of evaluating the college's performance, was the focus of two presentations by Bill Gordon, a member of the Ministry of Education and Training's KPI Implementation Team.

Gordon was seconded from his position at Barrie's Georgian College to help the ministry in starting the process. Secondment allows a college employee to suspend their normal duties and take on special projects.

In addressing the importance of the KPIs, Niagara College Vice-President Academic Bonnie Rose said it does have a future impact on how the college gets its funding, adding, they are "always nervous" about getting performance results.

In the opening of his presentation, Gordon said 37 states in the U.S. are using performance-based funding.

What parents and students are looking for is "value for money" when it comes to education, adding higher education has been "demystified" and is no longer associated with the ivory tower mentality.

Gordon said the Ontario government's goal is to improve accountability.

This began in 1996 when the provincial auditor's report recommended the following:

- That the ministry establish clear and measurable goals for the college system.
- That they develop a system of tracking and reporting the performance in reaching these goals.
- That the performance information be made available to the public in a report.
- That the ministry establish funding policies that add to the achievement of those goals.

In 1996, Ontario colleges produced the accountability framework for Ontario's community colleges. Following this in 1997, the ministry and the colleges developed the framework for the KPIs.

The ministry established two goals for the college system. The first was to achieve a level of excellence in offering high quality programs to meet the needs of students and employers.

The second goal was to demonstrate this excellence through the achievement of specific outcomes.

The five areas to be evaluated are what have become the KPIs:

- graduate employment
- graduate satisfaction
- employer satisfaction
- student satisfaction
- graduation rate.

In December 1997, three college/ministry work teams were formed to recommend definitions for the five KPIs, to design a system for tracking and collecting the information, to propose a plan to help start the collection, tabulation and reporting of the data and to recommend a method in which to measure college performance.

The work teams tabled their report in April. It was approved by the Association of Colleges of Applied Arts and Technology of Ontario's general assembly and was then presented to David Johnson, Ontario's minister of education.

The teams were guided in their decision-making by four principles:

- The KPIs should be relevant to the ministry's goals and objectives in post-secondary education and the colleges' accountability framework.
- The KPI data collection and tabulation should be fair, consistent, objective and auditable.
- They should build on the colleges' expertise, existing materials and current related activities.
- They should build on the ministry's current procedures and activities related to performance indicators.

Gordon said there was a need for "legitimate data" just in case someone publishes it, adding the KPIs data will be "above reproach."

The data will be measured from year to year and compared to the individual college itself and not to another college, said Gordon.

Each college's funding will be adjusted according to its performance. At first, funding will be based on only three KPIs: graduate employment, graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction.

Student satisfaction and graduation rate may be factored in later.

The adjustment to funding will be phased in over three years beginning in 2000-01. When fully in place, each of the KPIs will affect up to two per cent of the operating grant.

Two third-party consultants have been contracted to do the surveys.

Forum Canada Research will survey the graduate employment, graduate satisfaction and employer satisfaction. Compustat Consultants will do the survey on student satisfaction, to be done in the first week of February for all ministry-funded second-term full and part-time students.

The questions on the surveys are set, but each college may add five questions specific to the college itself.

Employers will be contacted five weeks after the graduate survey, which is done six months after graduation. Contacting specific employers will only be done with the permission of the graduate.

The ministry will take only the information related to full- and part-time students enrolled in post-secondary or post-diploma programs that are funded by the ministry.

"That's all they want," said Gordon.

However, he said the college will get all the information because "it is Niagara's information."

A pilot study was done during the first week of November at four pilot colleges, including Toronto's George Brown College, La Cité Collegiale, Northern College in Timmins and Windsor's St. Clair College.

The results of the surveys will come faster to allow the colleges to make use of it while it is still relevant.

One faculty member who attended the presentation said six months is not enough time for graduates to use all their skills learned, adding lifelong learning can't be gauged in six months.

Soap star attends auction

By JACKIE FIELD
Staff Writer

He's young and restless.

Joshua Morrow, better known as Nicholas Newman on the hit television soap opera the *Young ana the Restless,* was at the Seaway Mall Nov. 12 to help raise money for the Welland County General Hospital. To date $2.4 million of the $5.7-million target has been collected.

Morrow arrived at the mall at 6:30 p.m. for an auction that raised almost $1,000 for the maternal and child care unit.

Auctioned off were a 25th anniversary Daytime Emmy awards program, CDs, a T-shirt given to Morrow from Global television last summer, a script of the *Young and the Restless* signed by actors and actresses on the show, and various other items.

Morrow autographed pictures to raise money. Black and white photos were sold for $5, and colour photos for $7.

Lyn Russo, executive director of the Welland County General Hospital, said the target for the maternal and child care unit is $1.6 million.

Russo added the campaign was launched on Oct. 26 and through donations and other support has raised $2.4 million of its $5.7 million target.

The money raised from the auction will help the hospital complete the "second phase" of getting eight labour, delivery and recovery rooms, additional day surgery beds and 10 rooms for complicated or Caesarean births.

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Raffle raises $172

By MARNI ANDERSON
Staff Writer

A group of Niagara College students raised $172 for the United Way.

As a class assignment, the second-year students of the Human Relations program organized a raffle to raise money. The raffle was held during pub night at the Welland campus After Hours.

Ray Hiscott, 20, a group member, said, "I feel pretty good. We were only expecting $100."

Laura Smith, 20, said the assignment was to organize and implement a fund-raiser for the United Way.

"We went through different things we could do and we thought this was the best way to make as much money as we can."

The group set up inside the doors of the pub and asked people for donations as they walked in. Raffle tickets were $1 for one or six for $5.

"I think it's reasonable, especially for the prizes we have," said Smith.

About 12 items were raffled including a Mike's Hard Lemonade basketball net.

Potential donor group members Ben Lockyer, 22, and Allan Ivey, 21, discussed possible tactics to encourage people to donate.

Hey . . . it's flat!

The parking lot behind the After Hours Pub and Black Walnut building at Niagara College's Welland campus was recently paved. It has marked parking lines and designated spots for the handicapped.

Photo by Jenn Moir

Eye On Niagara

Volunteers needed

Continued from Page 3

and going on to solutions," says Tyler.

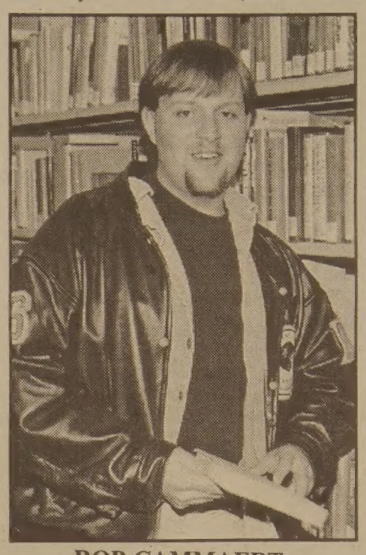
"There is something very special about a voice on a phone that is not familiar. Because you are a stranger, and they won't ever have to face you, they can safely tell you what is troubling them, or what is very special to them. I feel that is a privilege to be taken into someone's confidence to that extent," says Culp.

The training sessions involve three hours a week for a seven-week period, which is followed by supervised training for two shifts on the phones. It can take three months before new volunteers can get on the phones themselves, says Tyler.

Cammaert says it is "important" to get that training because it is "more of a way of thinking" rather than a way of doing things." He adds the classes are "really relaxed." "It's almost like a social group that you go out to for training."

Cammaert says the volunteers are a "good mix" from "a lot of different backgrounds." Academically, he says, there are a lot of Brock University students from the psychology or sociology departments, but there are also math majors, social workers, security

The centre does provide opportunities for venting sessions for volunteers, but Cammaert says "the people you work with know what you are going through, and they'll talk to you at the end of your shift."



ROB CAMMAERT

The tougher calls are the suicide calls and calls from people who have suffered abuse or have been sexually assaulted, says Cammaert, but often, he adds, it is "just people who want to talk." "People like ourselves who have a lot of stresses in their lives and they may not have the supports in their life, or they may not be home, and they know they need to talk to someone."

'Chances are you are going to find it rewarding. . .' — Rob Cammaert

Culp says her years as a volunteer at the centre has been a "very enriching opportunity and experience" for her, but admits that it is not for everyone. "In order to really appreciate it you must be the kind of person who enjoys people and enjoys listening to people. It couldn't be something you could commit to if you weren't a caring person."

Cammaert says he would like to see more students from the college get involved. Cammaert says any student who has a car can get to the distress centre. "Chances are you are going to find it rewarding, and it would probably be one of the best decisions you do in your life."

Chefs showcased

By DAVID OLSEN
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — Niagara College's Maid of the Mist Centre presented the second evening in its Showcase of Chefs series on Nov. 29, in the Kerrio Room.

The evening, in the full-service dining room, began with a wine-tasting reception featuring two wines from Inniskillin Wineries, a Pinot Grigio, a white wine, and a Gamay Noir, a red wine.

Bob Hallet, Inniskillin's Niagara district sales representative, says the lighter dry wines go well with salads and light meats.

Guests made their way to the Kerrio Room for the four-course dinner prepared by featured chef of the evening, Virginia Marr, of the Pillar and Post in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Marr, born and raised in the Niagara wine belt, joined the Pillar and Post in 1995 and within two years became executive chef. She began studying culinary arts in Normandy, France then returned to the Niagara region to complete the Chef Apprenticeship program at Niagara College.

Marr has won a silver medal and bronze medals in national culinary competitions. In 1992 she received the prestigious title of chef de cuisine from the Canadian Culinary Institute and Federation of Chefs and Cooks. She says she's also committed to using locally grown produce and wines throughout her cuisine.

The evening's dinner began with roasted and grilled cellar vegetables in a chervil chive broth, followed by cultivated mushrooms and sweet corn tamale, saffron crema, and smoked pepper coulis with popcorn seedlings.

Guests were then served a roasted garlic chevre-stuffed chicken, European bacon, toasted orzo, and a calvados jus and cinnamon apple fritter, followed by a dessert of Belgian chocolate silk with toasted pecans.

The showcases allow students in the Culinary Arts and Hotel and Restaurant Management programs to gain experience by volunteering. They help prepare and serve food and beverages and learn from professionals in the industry. Funds raised by the showcases benefit the students in programs at the centre.

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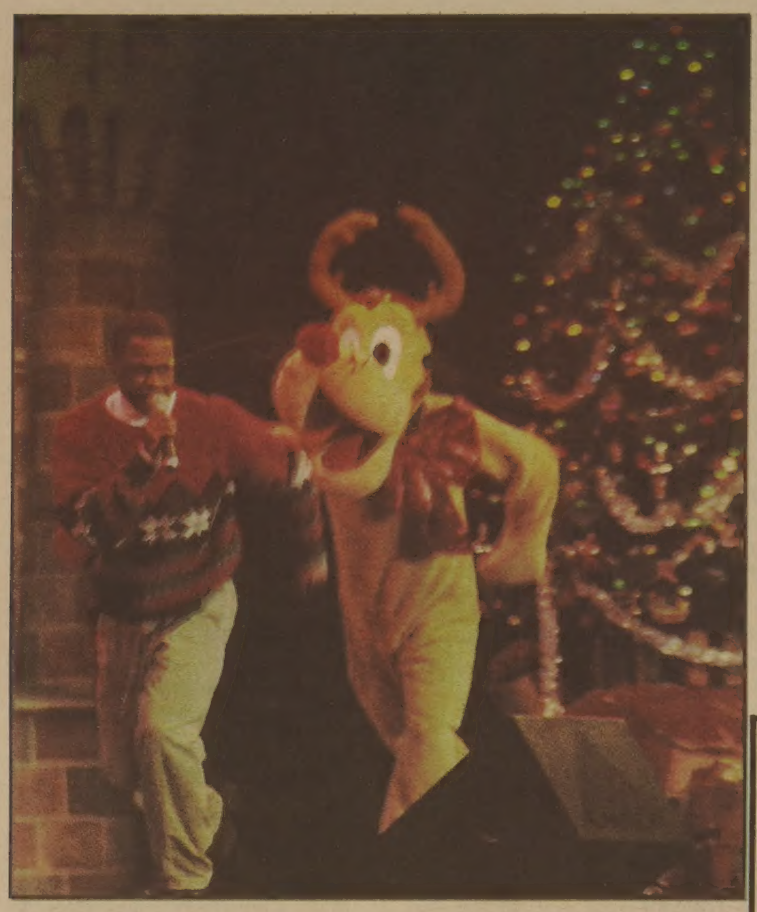

Entertainers run onto stage with Disney characters at the 16th annual Festival of Lights at Queen Victoria Park near the Horseshoe Falls in Niagara Falls, Nov. 21. The lights can be seen every night from 5:30 to 11:30 until Jan. 19.

Photo by Larissa Kondusky

Festival begins with a bang

By LARISSA KONDUSKY
Staff Writer

NIAGARA FALLS — The Festival of Lights started off with a bang.

This year, two new Disney characters turned on the light display at Queen Victoria Park, main stage, in Niagara Falls, on Saturday, Nov. 21.

Pluto and Goofy set off the festival's displays at about 5:30 p.m. just as fireworks filled the sky above.

After the five-minute fireworks display, Mickey Mouse and friends took centre stage to dance and sing to the crowd of about 2,000.

Young children could be seen dancing and laughing to the bubbly Christmas music that blared from the speakers. Children pointed and waved to their favourite Disney characters.

The show lasted about 20 minutes and was the first of four for that weekend.

The Festival of Lights Cheerleading Championship was held in early December at St. Paul High School in Niagara Falls.

Other festivities include the following:

• Blues Swing Night — Dec. 12, 7:30 p.m. to 9 p.m., Queen Victoria Park, main stage.

• Candles in the Park — Dec. 19, 7-8 p.m. at Oakes Garden Theatre.

• Winter Festival of Lights Night Parade — Dec. 11, 18, 26 and Jan. 1, all parades start at 8 p.m. and begin at the Rainbow Bridge along the Niagara Parkway to Murray Hill.

• Fireworks Extravaganzas — Dec. 11, 9:30 p.m. and Dec. 31, 9:15 p.m. and midnight, over the falls.

• New Year's Eve-Niagara Falls — Dec. 31, 7:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m., featuring Blue Rodeo, The Philosopher Kings, Barrage and Kideo kicking off the evening at Queen Victoria Park, main stage.

The lights displays are on every evening at 5 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. at Queen Victoria Park, Niagara Falls, until Jan. 19, 1999.

Children were laughing and dancing to Christmas music

Cindy Blanchard, Welland campus's SAC financial administrator (back-left), Patrick Colley, a Glendale campus student (back-centre), and Jamie Ebsary, Welland campus's president, (front-left) get help signing people into the children's Christmas party from their friends

Photo by Sarah Storm

Tiny tots' heroes coming to town

By SARAH STORM
Staff Writer

NIAGARA-ON-THE-LAKE — Santa Claus, Barney, Lunette from the show **The Great Big Comfy Couch** and Poe the Telletubbie brought the Christmas spirit to almost 100 children.

Parents brought their children, ranging in age from six weeks old to 12 years old, to the Christmas party, at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake on Dec. 5.

When the entertainment arrived, about 1:30 p.m., the children were ecstatic, running up to Poe, Lunette and Barney to get hugs. Parents were trying to keep up, with their cameras in hand, trying to snap a memorable picture.

Poe and Lunette brought with them someone to do face painting, someone to make balloon animals, hula hoops, ribbons on sticks and music.

There were snacks to eat such as cookies, chips, popcorn, juice and coffee.

Every child received a free gift and a stocking full of goodies. There were a variety of gifts, such as xylophones, jazzy-jewelry sets, radios, small cars and cameras.

Any gifts left will be donated by the Student Administrative Council to Community Christmas Toys, a St. Catharines organization which supplies Christmas toys to less fortunate children.

The majority of the children were five and under. Tickets were bought mostly by students but some staff attended as well.

Children excited when Barney, Poe, and Lunette arrive

Cindy Blanchard, Student Administrative Council's (SAC) financial administrator, Chris Williams, SAC's office manager for the Glendale campus, Jamie Ebsary, SAC's president and Jason Macinnis, SAC's vice- president of campus events for Welland campus, were all volunteering their help.

Patrick Colley, a first-year Business-Accounting program student at the Glendale campus, was a volunteer as well, along with the daughters of Blanchard and Williams.

All of the helpers were dressed up in reindeer hats and were busy doing things such as refilling the food, handing out orientation mugs and candy canes, and signing people in.

Darren Morgan, a student upgrading in Literacy and Basic Skills, was there with two of his children, one-year old James and three-year-old Steven. He said his wife was planning to come but had just started a job so she had to work.

Morgan said he is almost ready for Christmas but has to buy one last present for his wife.

Bill Roy attended with his four-year old daughter Bailey. Roy is a second-year student in the Hotel and Restaurant Management program at the Maid of the Mist Centre. Bailey said her favourite character there was Lunette.

Lit to perfection

The brightly lit Skylon Tower looms over Niagara Falls like a giant candle, in the continuing tradition of the city's Festival of Lights.

Photo by Sean Coffey